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A MIRROR FOR LIBRARIANS

A MIRROR FOR LIBRARIANS

SELECTED READINGS IN
THE HISTORY OF
LIBRARIANSHIP

by

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PREFACE

WHILE compiling *The Chronology of Librarianship* the author encountered much difficulty in gaining access to certain of the "classics" of librarianship, and considered the idea of collecting together significant passages and short extracts from the writings of men who have influenced our profession. Prefaced by brief "thumb-nail" portraits, and with references for further reading, this volume has grown (somewhat slowly, it is feared, owing to war conditions), it being hoped that the result will give librarians and students of librarianship some idea of the factors involved in the growth of their craft, and inspire them with an interest in those who have brought about that development.

The selection of passages is wide, although it is impossible to include all the material one would wish to see incorporated, and I have excluded living authors. However, should this series meet with approval, it will probably be followed by a second. It would be impossible to please all in deciding upon what to include in a volume of this type, and my chief means of selection has been that of noting passages appearing to have special significance, to have foreseen or inaugurated important developments in library work, or which appealed strongly to me. I have possibly omitted very important material, and also neglected entirely the works of some of our staunchest supporters, but I offer this volume as a personal selection of authoritative writings that might be considered worthy of perusal by all interested in librarianship. War-time conditions further curtailed my choice, as many requisite volumes were unobtainable.

As far as possible, at the end of each biography,

reference is made to at least one monograph on the biographee, failing which obituary notices or appreciations are usually recorded. Although only one source of these is generally indicated for each subject, others can readily be traced in periodicals contemporary with the death of the biographee, and with the aid of appropriate bibliographical tools, particularly Cannons. The *Dictionary of National Biography* and similar publications provide further information with which to clothe the skeleton biographies here presented, although there is very little available material on certain of the persons here portrayed in miniature.

I am grateful to the Greenwood Library for Librarians, Manchester, for the loan of certain books otherwise difficult of access, and also to the Library Association Library for similar facilities. Mr. D. C. Henrik Jones, the Librarian, in particular has taken great trouble in collecting required literature from scattered points, and has also kindly provided information I was unable to obtain myself while isolated from library systems, and my former colleague, Mr. R. I. J. Tully, has rendered similar assistance. Once more I am deeply indebted to my wife for the preparation of the manuscript, a task rendered doubly difficult by my absence from home.

I desire to express my thanks to the following publishers, etc., for permission to quote extracts from books of which they hold the copyright: Messrs. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc. (MacAlister); Literary Executors and Messrs. H. K. Lewis (Osler); Clarendon Press, Oxford, the late G. W. Wheeler, Esq., and Bodleian Library (Bodley); Miss D. M. Norris and Messrs. Grafton and Co. (Alcuin); Messrs. Grafton and Co. (Brown's *Manual and Jast*); Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co., Ltd. (Richard de Bury); F. W. Faxon Co., successor to the Boston Book Co. (Green); *The Times*, Mrs. F. A. Akenhead and Mrs. M. Hankey (Nicholson); A. C. McClurg and Co. (Kirkwood); Lake Placid Club Education Foundation (Dewey); U.S. Office of Educa-

tion (Billings, Cutter); Library Association (Bray, Brown, Garnett, Minto, Nicholson, Pitt and Wright). Should I have overlooked the holders of any copyright material, I offer them my sincere apologies, but war-time difficulties greatly accentuated the problem of tracing copyright owners, although I have endeavoured to do so in every instance. Finally, I am indebted to the following for permission to use copyright photographs: Bodley's Librarian (Sir Thomas Bodley); American Library Association (C. A. Cutter and J. S. Billings); Mrs. M. Hankey (E. W. B. Nicholson); Messrs. Elliott and Fry, Ltd. (Sir William Osler); Sir Ian MacAlister (Sir John Y. W. MacAlister).

JOHN L. THORNTON.

Wembley.

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CHAPTER I

ALCUIN OF YORK (735-804)

LIBRARIANS frequently fail to appreciate the antiquity of their calling, and of library routine methods. The latter are as old as libraries, and have changed surprisingly little with the passing of the centuries. As in modern times, certain characters stand out above their fellows as persons who have contributed to the advancement of their craft, and a prominent figure connected with early libraries existed in the form of Alcuin.

Alcuin (also known as Albinus or Albin) was born in Northumbria in or about 735. He was educated at the Cathedral School of York, of which he later became master, and was trained under Ecgbert, Bishop, and later Archbishop of York, and Albert, of whom Alcuin was a great favourite, and who succeeded Ecgbert. Alcuin was ordained deacon at York about 768, and in 780 when Albert died, he left Alcuin the great collection of books at York.

Alcuin visited the Continent several times, and on one occasion while returning from Rome he met Charlemagne in Parma, who persuaded Alcuin to rejoin him in France after completing his mission. With the consent of his own king Alfwald, and of Eanbald I, the new Archbishop of York, Alcuin quitted the School of York and went to reside with Charlemagne, who made him head of two monasteries. Alcuin greatly influenced Charlemagne in political, theological and educational matters, planning several schools which he organized on the lines of the School of York. He also wrote many letters to prominent personalities of the period, the surviving letters, to the number of 236, being of great

historical importance. Alcuin also wrote several commentaries and treatises on the scriptures, biographies, poems and songs.

Twice Alcuin revisited England, before being placed at the head of the Monastery of St. Martin of Tours, to which he retired in his old age. He set an example to his contemporaries by his saintly life, and his momentous achievements. His simple epitaph at St. Martin's read : " Here doth rest the lord Alchuuin the Abbat, who died in peace on the fourteenth of the Kalends of June. When you read, O all ye that pass by, pray for him and say, The Lord grant unto him eternal rest."

Alcuin founded the library at St. Martin's Monastery, borrowing books from England, and especially from the rich collection at York, which he had copied for the purpose. In 1739 St. Martin's possessed 272 manuscripts, many of which, together with those from other local churches, found their way into the Public Library of Tours.

Librarians remember Alcuin chiefly for his metrical catalogue of the library at York, and it has been suggested that this was compiled at Tours. The library was rich in Latin, Greek and Hebrew authors, some being named in Alcuin's verses, although many are omitted.

REFERENCE

Browne, G. F., Bishop of Bristol. *Alcuin of York ; lectures delivered in the Cathedral Church of Bristol in 1907 and 1908, [etc.]*, London, [etc.], 1908. [This contains full details of the life and achievements of Alcuin.]

ALCUIN'S METRICAL CATALOGUE

" Traditit ast alio caras super omnia gazas
 Librorum nato, Patri qui semper adhaesit,
 Doctrinæ sitiens haurire fluentia suëtus :
 Cujus si curas proprium cognoscere nomen,
 Fronte sua statim praesentia carmine prodent,
 His diversit opes diversis sortibæ ; illi

Ecclesiae regimen, thesuaros, rura, talenta :
 Huic sophiae specimen, studium, sedemque, librosque,
 Undique quos clarus collegerat ante Magister,
 Egregias condens uno sub culmine gazas.
 Illic invenies veterum vestigia Patrum,
 Quidquid habet pro se Latio Romanus in orbe,
 Graecia vel quidquid transmisit clara Latinis :
 Hebraicus vel quod populus bibit imbre superno,
 Africa lucifluo vel quidquid lumine sparsit.
 Quod pater Hieronymus quod sensit Hilarius, atque
 Ambrosius Praesul, simul Augustinus, et ipse
 Sanctus Athanasius, quod Orosius edit avitus :
 Quidquid Gregorius summus docet, et Leo Papa :
 Basilius quidquid, Fulgentius atque coruscant,
 Cassiodorus item, Chrysostomus atque Johannes,
 Quidquid et Althelmus docuit, quid Beda Magister,
 Quae Victorinus scripsere, Boëtius ; atque
 Historici veteres, Pompeius, Plinius ipse
 Acer Aristoteles, Rhetor quoque Tullius ingens.
 Quid quoque Seditius, vel quid canit ipse Juvencus.
 Alcuinus et Clemens, Prosper, Paulinus, Arator,
 Quid Fortunatus, vel quid Lactantius edunt.
 Quae Maro Virgilius, Statius, Lucanus, et Auctor
 Artis grammaticae, vel quid scripsere Magistri
 Quid Probus atque Focas, Donatus, Priscianusve,
 Servius, Euticius, Pompeius, Comminianus.
 Invenies alios per plures, lector, ibidem
 Egregios studios, arte et sermone Magistros,
 Plurima qui claro scripsere volumine sensu :
 Nomina sed quorum praesenti in carmine scribi
 Longius est visum, quam plectri postulet usus."

Loosely translated as :—

" There shalt thou find the volumes that contain
 All of the ancient fathers who remain ;
 There all the Latin writers make their home
 With those that glorious Greece transferred to Rome ;
 The Hebrews draw from their celestial stream,
 And Africa is bright with learning's beam.

Here shines what Jerome, Ambrose, Hilary, thought
Or Athanasius and Augustine wrought.
Orosius, Leo, Gregory the Great,
Near Basil and Fulgentius coruscate.
Grave Cassiodorus and John Chrysostom
Next Master Bede and learned Aldhelm come,
While Victorinus and Boethius stand
With Pliny and Pompeius close at hand.

Wise Aristotle looks on Tully near.
Sedulius and Juvenecus next appear.
Then come Albinus, Clement, Prosper too,
Paulinus and Arator. Next we view
Lactantius, Fortunatus. Ranged in line
Virgilius Maro, Statius, Lucan, shine.
Donatus, Priscian, Probus, Phocas start
The roll of masters in grammatic art.
Eutychius, Servius, Pompey each extend
The list. Comminian brings it to an end.

There shalt thou find, O reader, many more
Famed for their style, the masters of old lore,
Whose many volumes singly to rehearse
Were far too tedious for our present verse."

From Norris, Dorothy May. *A history of cataloguing and cataloguing methods, 1100-1850, [etc.]*, 1939, pp. 8-10.

CHAPTER II

RICHARD DE BURY (1287-1345)

THE *Philobiblon*, generally attributed to Richard de Bury, is one of the most remarkable books in the literature of librarianship. Completed six hundred years ago, it contains much shrewd advice and information that remains of value even to-day, the modern English translation being a most interesting document.

Richard de Bury (Aungerville) was born on January 24, 1287, near Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, and was educated at Oxford. He became tutor to Prince Edward of Windsor, and upon the latter's accession to the throne as Edward III, was honoured with many political appointments. In 1322 Richard de Bury became Chamberlain of Chester, and Edward III made him Clerk of the Privy Seal. He was also sent in 1330 and 1333 as ambassador to the Pope, and upon one of these visits met Petrarch. In 1333 Richard became Dean of Wells, and a little later, Bishop of Durham; when he died in 1345 he was buried in that Cathedral.

The authorship of *Philobiblon* has frequently been doubted, but apparently no better claim to it has been laid than the activities of Richard de Bury. Ernest C. Thomas's edition of the work was compiled from 28 manuscripts and several printed editions, and apparently Thomas did not doubt the authorship of the book until his edition was being printed. His attention was then drawn to a note on Richard de Bury by one of his contemporaries which threw doubt upon his character, but certainly does not prove that de Bury was not the author of *Philobiblon*.

Richard de Bury died in debt, some of his books being

sold to satisfy his creditors, but he is said to have owned more books than all the other English bishops put together. He had a library at each of his residences, and spared no effort to increase his collection, even acquiring books from abroad. The *Philobiblon* is probably the only book written by de Bury, and the work is described in the final paragraph as having been completed "in our manor-house of Aukland on the 24th day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand three hundred and forty-four."

There have been several printed editions of *Philobiblon*, and numerous manuscripts of it also exist, all of which are recorded in the edition by Ernest C. Thomas. Editions were printed at Cologne, 1473; Spire, 1483; Paris, 1500; Oxford, 1598-1599, edited by Dr. Thomas James; Frankfurt, 1610, 1614; Leipzig, 1674; Helmstadt, 1703; London, 1832; Paris, 1856; Albany, 1861.

REFERENCE

The Philobiblon of Richard de Bury, Bishop of Durham, Treasurer and Chancellor of Edward III. Edited and translated by Ernest C. Thomas, [etc.], 1888. [Contains Latin text followed by modern English version; biography (pp. xi-xlvi); bibliography of printed editions and MSS.; and references to original material. Thomas's translation also appeared in The King's Classics Series as The love of books. The Philobiblon of Richard de Bury, newly translated into English by E. C. Thomas, 1902.]

RICHARD DE BURY'S PHILOBIBLON

In books I find the dead as if they were alive; in books I foresee things to come; in books warlike affairs are set forth; from books come forth the laws of peace. All things are corrupted and decay in time; Saturn ceases not to devour the children that he generates; all the glory of the world would be buried in oblivion, unless God had provided mortals with the remedy of books. Alexander, the conqueror of the earth, Julius the invader of Rome and of the world, who, the first

in wars and arts, assumed universal empire under his single rule, faithful Fabricius and stern Cato, would now have been unknown to fame, if the aid of books had been wanting. Towers have been razed to the ground ; cities have been overthrown ; triumphal arches have perished from decay ; nor can either pope or king find any means of more easily conferring the privilege of perpetuity than by books. The book that he has made renders its author this service in return, that so long as the book survives the author remains immortal and cannot die, as Ptolemy declares in the Prologue to his *Almagest* : He is not dead, he says, who has given life to science.

[pp. 161-2]

Finally, we must consider what pleasantness of teaching there is in books, how easy, how secret ! How safely they lay bare the poverty of human ignorance to books without feeling any shame ! They are masters who instruct us without rod or ferule, without angry words, without clothes or money. If you come to them they are not asleep ; if you ask and inquire of them, they do not withdraw themselves ; they do not chide if you make mistakes ; they do not laugh at you if you are ignorant. O books who alone are liberal and free, who give to all who ask of you and enfranchise all who serve you faithfully ! by how many thousand types are ye commended to learned men in the scriptures given us by inspiration of God ! For ye are the mines of profoundest wisdom, to which the wise man sends his son that he may dig out treasures : Prov. 2. Ye are the wells of living waters, which father Abraham first digged, Isaac digged again, and which the Philistines strive to fill up : Gen. 26. . . . Ye are the golden vessels of the temple, the arms of the soldiers of the Church, with which to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked, fruitful olives, vines of Engadi, figtrees that are never barren, burning lamps always to be held in

readiness—and all the noblest comparisons of scripture may be applied to books, if we choose to speak in figures.
[pp. 163-5]

From what has been said we draw this corollary welcome to us, but (as we believe) acceptable to few : namely, that no dearness of price ought to hinder a man from the buying of books, if he has the money that is demanded for them, unless it be to withstand the malice of the seller or to await a more favourable opportunity of buying. For if it is wisdom only that makes the price of books, which is an infinite treasure to mankind, and if the value of books is unspeakable, as the premises show, how shall the bargain be shown to be dear where an infinite good is being bought? Wherefore, that books are to be gladly bought and unwillingly sold, Solomon, the sun of men, exhorts us in the *Proverbs* : *Buy the truth*, he says, *and sell not wisdom*.
[p. 169]

Almighty Author and Lover of peace, scatter the nations that delight in war, which is above all plagues injurious to books. For wars being without the control of reason make a wild assault on everything they comes [*sic*] across, and lacking the check of reason they push on without discretion or distinction to destroy the vessels of reason.

[pp. 191-2]

In sooth we cannot mourn with the grief that they deserve all the various books that have perished by the fate of war in various parts of the world. Yet we must tearfully recount the dreadfull ruin which was caused in Egypt by the auxillaries in the Alexandrian war, when seven hundred thousand volumes were consumed by fire. These volumes had been collected by the

royal Ptolemies through long periods of time, as Aulus Gellius relates. What an Atlantean progeny must be supposed to have then perished : including the motions of the spheres, all the conjunctions of the planets, the nature of the galaxy, and the prognostic generations of comets, and all that exists in the heavens or in the ether ! Who would not shudder at such a hapless holocaust, where ink is offered up instead of blood, where the glowing ashes of crackling parchment were encarnadined with blood, where the devouring flames consumed so many thousands of innocents in whose mouth was no guile, where the unsparing fire turned into ashes so many shrines of eternal truth ?

[pp. 193-4]

But in truth infinite are the losses which have been inflicted upon the race of books by wars and tumults. And as it is by no means possible to enumerate and survey infinity, we will here finally set up the Gades of our complaint, and turn again to the prayers with which we began, humbly imploring that the Ruler of Olympus and the Most High Governor of all the world will establish peace and dispel wars and make our days tranquil under his protection.

[pp. 196-7]

Moreover, we had always in our different manors no small multitude of copyists and scribes, of binders, correctors, illuminators, and generally of all who could usefully labour in the service of books. Finally, all of both sexes and of every rank or position who had any kind of association with books, could most easily open by their knocking the door of our heart, and find a fit resting-place in our affection and favour. In so much did we receive those who brought books, that the multitude of those who had preceded them did not lessen the welcome of the after-comers, nor were the

favours we had awarded yesterday prejudicial to those of to-day. Wherefore, ever using all the persons we have named as a kind of magnets [*sic*] to attract books, we had the desired accession of the vessels of science and a multitudinous flight of the finest volumes.

[p. 206]

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To him who recollects what has been said before, it is plain and evident who ought to be the chief lovers of books. For those who have most need of wisdom in order to perform usefully the duties of their position, they are without doubt most especially bound to show more abundantly to the sacred vessels of wisdom the anxious affection of a grateful heart. Now it is the office of the wise man to order rightly both himself and others, according to the Phœbus of philosophers, Aristotle, who deceives not nor is deceived in human things. Wherefore princes and prelates, judges and doctors, and all other leaders of the commonwealth, as more than others they have need of wisdom, so more than others ought they to show zeal for the vessels of wisdom.

[p. 224]

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Books delight us, when prosperity smiles upon us ; they comfort us inseparably when stormy fortune frowns on us. They lend validity to human compacts, and no serious judgements are propounded without their help. Arts and sciences, all the advantages of which no mind can enumerate, consist in books. How highly must we estimate the wondrous power of books, since through them we survey the utmost bounds of the world and time, and contemplate the things that are as well as those that are not, as it were in the mirror of eternity. In books we climb mountains and scan the deepest gulfs of the abyss ; in books we behold the finny tribes that may not exist outside their native waters,

distinguish the properties of streams and springs and of various lands ; from books we dig out gems and metals and the materials of every kind of mineral, and learn the virtues of herbs and trees and plants, and survey at will the whole progeny of Neptune, Ceres, and Pluto.

[p. 229]

Extracts from *The Philobiblon of Richard de Bury, Bishop of Durham, Treasurer and Chancellor of Edward III.* Edited and translated by Ernest C. Thomas, [etc.], 1888.

CHAPTER III

SIR THOMAS BODLEY (1545-1613) AND DR. THOMAS JAMES (1573?-1629)

THE Bodleian Library, Oxford, has for centuries been the Mecca for scholars from all over the world. Its antiquity, and the fact that it is maintained up to date by means of copyright privilege render it of primary significance, and its foremost position is almost entirely due to the efforts of one man. Sir Thomas Bodley planned the restoration of Duke Humphrey's Library, personally supervised every detail of its reconstruction, and made provision for its future development. He carefully considered every minute detail connected with the organization and furnishing of the library, and as his letters indicate, put the collection foremost in his thoughts, never missing an opportunity to solicit gifts, and taking great pains to acquire literature from abroad, if it could not be purchased in England.

Sir Thomas Bodley was born at Exeter on March 2, 1545, and was educated at Geneva and Magdalen College, Oxford. Between 1576 and 1580 he travelled in Italy, France and Germany, and from 1585 to 1596 he was envoy to Denmark, France and Holland. In the following year Bodley married a rich widow, and retired from diplomatic life. On February 23, 1598, he wrote to the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, offering to restore Duke Humphrey's Library, the letter being reproduced below (pp. 34-5). He immediately began collecting books, seeking gifts from all possible donors, and sending agents to the book marts on the Continent. He later ventured even further afield, asking the Consul^r of Aleppo to procure



PLATE I

SIR THOMAS BODLEY (1545-1613)

(From the oil-painting in the Bodleian Library, by kind permission of Bodley's Librarian)

volumes in Arabic, Syriac, Persian and Turkish (see pp. 41-2). With the rapid accumulation of books it became necessary to appoint a custodian, and in 1601 Dr. Thomas James became the first Keeper of the Library. Bodley, however, strictly reserved to himself the right to make all decisions respecting library matters, and the correspondence between Bodley and James is of great interest. James was not permitted even to marry without Bodley's permission (see pp. 28-9), and it is probable that had James been given a free hand he would have made an even better librarian than he was permitted to be.

In 1604 Bodley was knighted, and in the following year the first catalogue of the Library, compiled by James, was printed. The Keeper was also instrumental in obtaining from the Stationers' Company the grant of one copy of every book issued by a member of the Company, which came into effect in December, 1610.

Sir Thomas Bodley died on January 28, 1613, and was buried in Merton College Chapel, bequeathing the greater part of his property for the benefit of his Library.

Thomas James was educated at Winchester and New College, Oxford, where he pursued theological studies, and in fact retained his interest in theology throughout his life. He was Keeper of the Bodleian from 1601 until his resignation in 1620, and did not spare himself to enhance the value of the Library. He presented his private collection to the Library, secured numerous valuable gifts, compiled two printed catalogues of the Bodleian, issued in 1605 and 1620 respectively, and also compiled a subject catalogue, which is still available in manuscript form, and represents an early outstanding example of this type of catalogue.

James' activities were strictly supervised and greatly restricted by Bodley. He was not permitted to shelve

manuscripts and printed books separately, and he also disapproved of alphabetical arrangement under broad headings ; but Bodley's permission was necessary before the minutest detail was made an accomplished fact. The letters exchanged between the founder and the keeper are of great interest, painting a vivid picture of their relationship, and certain of them are here reproduced.

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Letters of Sir Thomas Bodley to Thomas James. . . . Edited . . . by G. W. Wheeler, Oxford, 1926.

Letters of Sir Thomas Bodley to the University of Oxford, 1598-1611. Edited by G. W. Wheeler, Oxford, 1927.

Letters addressed to Thomas James, first Keeper of Bodley's Library, Edited by G. W. Wheeler, Oxford, 1933.

Pietas Oxoniensis in memory of Sir Thomas Bodley, Knt., and the foundation of the Bodleian Library, [Oxford], 1902. [Contains biography of Bodley, genealogy, chief gifts to the Bodleian after his death, lists of librarians and sub-librarians, bibliographical list of printed catalogues ; also, portraits of Bodley, Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, Archbishop Laud, John Selden, Bishop Richard Rawlinson, Francis Douce, Thomas James, etc. The portrait of Bodley is reproduced as Plate 1.]

Trecentale Bodleianum. A memorial volume for the three hundredth anniversary of the public funeral of Sir Thomas Bodley, March 29, 1613, Oxford, 1913. [Contains his autobiography written in 1609, his letter offering to refound the University Library, extracts from his will, etc.]

LETTERS OF SIR THOMAS BODLEY TO THOMAS JAMES

LETTER 9

Sir, The general liking of the Librarie doth greatly content me : and faine I would answear their desires, which would haue it frequented, out of hand : but so

many cheires, as shall be requisit, can not suddainly be made, nor many thinges more perfourned, which apperteine vnto the place, and the bookes, and to the dignitie and state of an action begonne with so great expectation. The necessitie of hauing casements, will soone appeere heereafter, and they may be quickly had. But I am of opinion, that when this present heat, which is very vnusual, shall be slaked, there will be little cause, to complaine this twelue moneth. I pray yow keepe a note, of the bookes that are double, and lette me haue it, with the Catalogue, which I desire should be written as your owne, with placing the fol°. bookes by themselves in the Alphabet, and then the 4^{to} & c. I doe not thinke that yow shall finde, aboue one or two bookes of a sort, that are double, being newe bought. But among M^r Gents, there were diuers newe bound, which may seeme newe bought, when I had the same before, not knowing what bookes he would giue in his later gifte : whereby thei felle to be double. Howbeit we shall haue time enough and meanes, to make them away with very litle losse : and my desire is, that yow would be very sparing, in acquainting others, with suche bookes : or with any other imperfection, in this first collection. I would willingly vnderstand, what fault is founde with the cheines. For I knowe thei will catche, but yet lesse than any, that I haue seene. At my departure from Oxford, last, M^r Vicechancellour did promise, that I should haue the copies of suche letters as should be written to Sir Io. Fortescue, and the B. of Hereford, which I pray yow procure and send vnto me : and signifie withall, by whome and when they shall be sent. I would also vnderstand to whome it was resolued, that the Vicechancellours should addresse their particular letters of thanks, in the Vniuersities name : which importeth very muche, for the encouraging of other gentlemen, to be done with good respect. I would intreat yow, to speake to M^r Principal, to send me a note what volumes are superfluous, and what is wanting in Menochius workes.

Likewise at your good leasure, I would request a catalogue of euery one of their bookes, which were procured there by yow in the Vniuersitie, to witte of Mr Ridleis Mr Drapers, the schoolemasters of Winton, your brothers & c. to the end I may put them downe orderly on my register. My hope was and is that the greatest part of our Protestant writers will be given: but whether they be or no, they shall all be had, before the place be frequented. I pray yow be not weery of writing often to me. For the good disposition of all things in the Librarie doth greatly depend vpon our continual correspondence. And thus for the present I bidde yow hartely adieu.

Your affectionat fast frind

Tho. Bodley.

July 22. London. [1601].

I pray yow remember to send me an example of their handes, whose writing yow commended vnto me, at my being in Oxon.

[pp. 9-11]

LETTER 14

Sir, Concerning your letter of the 8. of this moneth, I haue not nowe the leasure, so to answer it all, as ether I am desirous, or some pointes thereof require. But yet if yow please, to weigh that litle that I write, with a ballance of a staied and vntroubled iudgement, I doe not doubt but I shall giue yow very good satisfaction. And first where yow wonder at my suddaine flatte denial of your continuance in that place, if so be yow should be married: I did wonder as muche, to see yow come vpon the suddaine, when I was ready to depart, and require to be resolved, what yerely stipend yow might trust to: because yow meant, as yow saied, to resign your felowship very shortly, and might determine withall, to take a wife: for whiche your state would haue neede, of 40^{li} stipend at the lest.

This your abrupt and vntimely demaund, with vnusual termes and wordes, did seeme to me so very strange, as I complained vnto yow, of your ouer late proposal, of a mater of that weight, when I was ready to begonne. Howbeit mine answear I am sure, was frindly and considerat. That yow should alwaies be assured of 20^{li} from me, and that in time I made no question of raising it further to 20 or 30 more : wherof notwithstanding, I could not as yet giue any assurance. But for the point of your mariage, I might by no meanes yelde vnto it : holding it absurd in yow or in any, for sundrie great respectes : nether did I, as I signified, see any necessitie of giuing ouer your fellowship. . . .

Thus wishing to that humour which bredde the subject of this letter, all the purging that may be, and your self all the good that your hart can desire, I betake both yow and all your actions, to Gods good direction.

your vnchangeable frind

Tho. Bodley.

From Burnham. Sept. 11 [1601].

[pp. 17-18, 21]

LETTER 46

Sir, I am very glad to heare of Sir Io. Fortescues comming thither : whome I knowe yow will welcome, according to his dignitie, and desert to that place. Yow shall doe best, in my iudgement, to be so short, as he may not conceaue it, to be muche premeditat : which will make so muche more for your owne commendation. Howbeit I could wishe, that the ioiners did returne, out of hand, for the sooner finishing for those shelues. For their worke in that place, is no ill sight to Sir Io. or to any. I pray yow hasten your mans writing of my Catalogue : the want wherof in good perfection, both hath and will trouble me not a litle. And if yow please to send me a note of the principal bookes in fol°. printed in Italy, Paris, or Lions, of those which yow

haue lately collected to be wanting in the Libr. I will presently conuey it, to Io. Bille, who is nowe in Paris. I would onely haue suche as are printed in those places, or els where therabout, and not all in fol°. that yow haue gathered, but some of the principal, for the more expedition, of your copieng of them out. As touching your Frankford Catalogues, there is a bigge volume in 4°. printed, conteining all from the yere 64. to 92. There is likewise an other from that time, to 1600. in 4°. printed by Henningus. These are bothe to be had at Nortons. But I thinke it is the later that you require: wherof I pray yow send me worde and I will conuey it with my next letter. Wherewith at this present I bidde yow adieu.

your assured ever

Tho. Bodley.

London. Aug. 27 [1602].

[pp. 52-3]

LETTER 47

Sir, I knowe not what is meant by the note, which I haue returned heerewith: but, as I doe suppose, it crept in with the rest vnwares to your self. Your Catalogue hath onely bookes in lawe and Physicke, because, as I imagine, yow haue gathered none of the other 2. faculties. By the cariar yow shall receaue your Franckf. Catalogue, and likewise a glasse of the best inke, that I can presently find. I shall request yow, that in writing the names of the Autours to be fixed at the headdes of the Deskes, yow would with your penne expresse your letters as full as yow can. For it chaunceth, by reason of sundrie letters but half drawn, when your paper taketh not the inke, which causeth obscuritie. I pray yow pardon my curiositie in these trifles: for that I am desirous, as neere as I can to meete with all exceptions. My trust is in yow, that my Catalogue shall be written out of your man with all

expedition : for that without it, I am no body. If yow can not finde paper large and good enough, to write the tables of the deskes, I thinke it shall not skille, if 2. sheetes of some other paper, then roial, be pasted netely together : which may be done, as I suppose, without any blemishe. Which is all that I haue worth the signifieng presently : wherupon I am to bidde yow most hartely a Dieu.

your euer assured
Tho. Bodley.

London. 1. Sept. [1602].

Lest the cariar should refuse the cariage of your glasse of inke, my man made him beleue it was a glasse of distelled water : and suche yow must aske for.

[pp. 53-4]

LETTER 92

Sir, I will be at the charge of printing the Catalogue, and so I pray yow signifie to M^r Barnes, with whome, for the price, I will accord, at my comming to Oxon : praieng him the while to provide suche newe chaces, and rulers, with all other necessities, as that worke shall require : to the end the Catalogue may be printed assoone as is possible. The next weeke, God willing, I will send away my bookes, and purpose my self, to be with yow shortly after : a which time we shall agree vpon the Letter, and all thinges els in doubt. I pray yow send me Bacon, and as for Hadrianus ioned with him, he shall be returned bound with some other. Yow forgotte to send me word as touching the chestes to be placed in the windowes for the vse of the smaller bookes, what length, depth, and bredth thei may be of, and what number of bookes yow thinke they may containe : wherein I shall request yow to vse the aduise of M^r Principal Hawley in special, and to commend me most hartely vnto him. I would receaue your answer

by the first the next weeke, for that I purpose therupon to send some wenscotte with my bookes. Yow must neede aduenture to send 2 or 3 letters to Io Cheinman, by seuerall messengers, whereby some one may com to his handes. Commend me most hartely to your brother.

your euer assured
Tho. Bodley.

London. Iunij 13. [1604].

[pp. 97-8]

LETTER 142

Sir, I haue sette downe in Englishe, the effect of a speeche, which I should desire might be vsed to the king. I haue written it in hast, and without curiositie, for your vnderstanding onely : and so as yow may adde or diminishe, change or interpose what yow thinke good. For I haue onely sette downe the roughe draught, which yow may refine, if yow like it. If I chaunce to see your brother before the cariar depart, I will conferre with him about it. To my iudgement, it will fitte your person and the place very well, being written in pure latin, and gracefulle deliuered. The lending of any booke out of the Librarie may be assented to by no meanes : neither is it a mater that the Vniuersitie or Vicechancelour are to deal in. It can not stand with my publike resolution with the Vniuersitie, and my denial made to the B. of Glocester, and the rest of the interpreters in their assemblie in Christchurche, who requested the like at my handes, for one or two bookes. I pray yow therefore, whensoever yow shall talke with D. Blincowe, or any other that may happen to make the like request, to intreat them to pardon me, being altogether bent, sins things haue bin settled in the Librarie to obserue all orders as strictly as may be. The booke required is but litle, and may soone be perused in the Librarie it self, which I doe not doubt,

by D. Blincowe will consider, and excuse my precisnesse in obseruing an order so much approued by others, and vrged still by my self. With Sir Tho. Lakes I will deale to that effect as yow desire : but to speede yow of that, which may be for your purpose, till this businesse about the kinges comming be ouerpast, I for my part shall not haue the leisure to deuise. For it requireth more enquirie, and information of thinges then yow doe happely thinke on as yet. Howbeit in time conuenient for it, you shall be sure I will endeuour, what I can for your good, by my self and by my frindes, in any respect.

your affectionat frind
Tho. Bodley.

London. Iuly 26. [1605].

[pp. 147-8]

LETTER 231

Sir, The speeche goeth heere, that sins St. Thomas Eue, the Librarie doore hath continued shutte : which is highly disliked of all that vnderstand it : but of no man more, than of my self : because many doe imagine, that the abuse is committed, with my toleration. Whereupon they doe descant, that whensoever God shall calle me, that whole Institution will quickly goe to wracke : which vndoubtedly will minister much occasion of repentance, among all sortes of persons, that haue bin contributours. In which regard I can not choose, but request yow for heerafter, to alter your course (which now I heare is too common) in taking that libertie. For my meaning was euer, and so it is, I am sure, of the whole Vniuersitie, that still there should be that accesse, for students to that place, as was formerly allowed by the ancient statutes : which neuer permitted so large vacations. And although in som regardes, they were held ouer strict, yet as neere as is possible, they must

needes be obserued : which I will alwaies endeuour,
and yow will second me I hope, as I shall alwaies be
your louing and very assured frind.

Tho. Bodley.

Fulham. Ian. 3. [1613].

[pp. 230-1]

From Letters of Sir Thomas Bodley to Thomas James, First Keeper of the Bodleian Library. Edited with an Introduction by G. W. Wheeler, Oxford, 1926.

BODLEY'S LETTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

LETTER I

[To the Vice-Chancellor]

Sir although you know mee not, as I suppose, yet for the farthering of an offer, of evident vtilitie, to your whole Vniuersity, I will not be to scrupulous, in craving your assistance. I haue bin alwaies of a mind, that yf god of his goodnesse, should make mee able to doe any thing, for the benefit of posteritie, I would shew some token of affection that I haue evermore boarne, to the studies of good learning. I know my portion is too slender, to performe for the present, any answerable act, to my willing disposition : but yet to notifie some part of my desire in that behalf, I haue thus to deale. Where there hath bin heretofore a publike library in Oxford : which you know is apparent, by the rome it self remayning, and by your statute records I will take the charge and cost vpon me, to reduce it again to his former vse : and to make it fitte, and handsome with seates, and shelfes, and Deskes, and all that may be needfull, to stirre vp other mens beneuolence, to helpe to furnish it with bookes. And this I purpose to beginne, assoone as timber can be gotten, to the intent that you may reape, some spedie profit of my proiect. And where before as I conceaue, it was to be reputed,

but a store of bookes of diuverse benefactors : because it never had any lasting allowanc[e], for augmentation of the number, or supplie of bookes decayed : whereby it came to passe, that when those that were in being, were ether wasted or embezeled the whole foundation came to ruine : to meete with that inconvenience, I will so provide heereafter (if god doe not hinder my present designe) as you shall be still assured of a standing annual rent, to be disboursed every yere in buing of bookes, in officers stipends, and other pertinent occasions with which prouision, and some order for preservation of the place, and of the furniture of it, from accustomed abuses, it may perhaps in tyme to come, proue a notable treasure for the multitude of volumes : an excellent benefit for the vse and ease of studentes : and a singular ornament in the Vniuersity. I am therefore to intreat you, because I will doe nothing without their publike approbation, to deliuer this that I have signified in that good sort, that you thinke meete : and when yow please to lette me knowe, their adceputation of my offer I will be redy to effect it, with all convenient expedition. But for the better effecting of it, I doe desire to be informed whether the Vniuersity be sufficiently qualified by licence of Mortmaine, or other assurance to receaue a farther grant of anye rent or anuetie, then they doe presently enioy. And if any instrumentes be extant, of the auncient donations to their former library, I would with their good liking, see a transcript of them : and likewise of such statutes, as were deuised by the founders, or afterwarde by others for the vsage of the bookes. Which is now as much as I can thinke on, wherevnto at your good leasure, I would request your frendly answeare. And yf it lie in my abilitie, to deserue your paines in that behalf, althoug[h] wee be not yet acquainted you shall find me very forward.

ffrom London ffeb : 23. 1597.

your affectionat frend

Tho. Bodley.

[pp. 4-5]

LETTER 6

[Endorsed] To the right worshipfull my very special good frind M^r Doctour Riues Vicechancelour of the Vniuersitie of Oxon.

Sir, I knowe there be many, that faine would haue me hasten, their free accesse vnto the Librarie : whiche hath bin euer my endeuour, to perfourme assoone as might be. I did onely first desire, that by some sightly shewe of bookes, the place might receaue the greater grace and reputation, and thereby minister more contentment to students and strangers. For I haue euer bin persuaded, that the better credit it carieth, for stoare and worthe of bookes, the sooner most men will be drawen, not onely to affect it, but to aduaunce and enriche it, with some of their best and rarest Autours : aswel to manifest their loue vnto to Vniuersitie, as to bring suche a place of publike studie, to a state of singularitie. And although in that respect I doe not rest as yet satisfied, with this quantitie of bookes, that I haue gathered already : yet because I am vnwilling, that the hope of hauing more, should stoppe the vse of these in being, to the preiudice perhaps, of many mens profiting in their priuat studies, I would intreat yow therefor nowe, to acquaint the Vniuersitie with my full resolution, which is, if they be so contented, to sette the Librarie open for students to frequent it, before the next Act. But as there can be litle hope of either good vsage, or long continuance, of any Fundation of that nature, without orders and statutes for the gouernment of it : so I can not but make bolde, to recommend the same in earnest wise, to their effectual consideration. I could easely coniecture (suche hath bin their wonted fauour) that they will willingly conforme their maner of proceeding, to what proiect soeuer I shall deliuer, yet knowing, as I doe, mine owne insufficiencie, for a mater of that moment, I will by no meanes vndertake, to contriue it of my self. Onely this I doe desire they

may vnderstand, that because it is an Action whiche concerneth me neerer, then any one whosoeuer, and therefor driueth me to meditat more seriously vpon it, I will nowe impart vnto them, and from time to time heerafter, what to me in my iudgement, seemeth meete to be ordeined : referring it still whatsoeuer I shall signifie, to be reformed, reiected, or accepted, as they shall finally determine. As nowe for the present, my opinion is this, that before they goe about to establishe statutes for continuance, it would auaille very muche, to make prooffe beforehand, for one whole yere, howe all thinges will be guided by the practise of some fewe, of their ancient orders : and then after to goe forward, vpon a deeper inspection into all inconueniences, with a perfecter plotte of gouernment. For I see that diuers constitutions, whiche were carefully deuised for the vse of the former Librarie, may well be reuiued, and receaued againe as authentical and good, with some litle alteration. They are all recorded, as I take it, in their publike Statut bookes, of whiche to serue the present turne, I haue noted these to be the chiefest. First, assoone as the rowme was replenished with bookes, before that Libertie would be graunted, for any to frequent it, there was a special day assigned, and committies deputed, for taking an othe of euery Graduat, and of as many besides, as by Licence were allowed to studie in that place. The Forme of that othe is expressly there sette downe, with this addition to it, that euery Graduat alwaise after, at the time of his Admission, should take the same precisely. Whether nowe the like againe, may be thought a fitte othe, to be publikely ministred (wherunto for my self I doe very muche incline) or whether it may suffice, that they have sworn already in general termes, to obserue all the statutes of the Vniuersitie, I leaue to them to be discussed ; whiche I make no doubt they will perfourme, so as nowe euery Graduat, aswell as heerafter, may hold himself thereby religiously tied, to tender the safetie and good of the Librarie. An other meete point for

them to decide, is touching the qualitie of those persons, to whome it shall be lawfull, to enioie the freedome their [*sic*] of studie. There was a Limitation in the former Decrees, permitting it onely vnto Graduates, and to the sonnes of Lordes of the Parliament house : but enioining withall that no Batcheler Graduat, excepting Batchelers of Diuinitie, and Licentiates in euery Facultie, might studie in the Librarie, without their habites and hoodes : vnless they had formerly taken the degree of a Master, or procured a Dispensation from the Congregation house. This Limitation, I suppose, (submitting my opinion to their reformation) may be suffered still to stand in force : but with some further qualification, That any gentleman stranger, may haue libertie to enter, so he come accompanied with a Graduat, or some other that is sworn, and will answear on his othe, for suche as come with him. For I doubt very muche, it would be reputed a defectiue constitution, if when persons of Nobilitie and eminent calling, with a great many others of merit and worthe, shewe themselues so bountifull, in helping to furnishe their stoarehouse with bookes, there should be no prouiso made, for their accesse vnto the place. Wherupon I could wishe in my slender discourse, when any gentleman of sort, shall at any time request, for his furtherance in some studie, to come in of himself, aswell as with another, and like as euery Graduat, to become a freeman of the Librarie, that his licence then should passe by the way of a Grace, and that there should be no refusal, without some cause of great exception : but alwaies with condition that he shall frame himself to take the accustomed othe, or promise to keepe it on his Honor if his dignitie and state, shall require that preeminence. Furthermore, there is somewhat nowe at first, to be duly considered, in that which of ancient [time] was decreed, about the Election, Function, and Stipend of the Librarie Keeper : on whose fidelitie and care they are chiefly to relie, for the managing of this businesse. But as touching his Election, I must become

an humble suitour to the Vniuersitie, that they will ratifie the choise, which I haue made already : ouerforwardly perhaps, as not of any right belonging vnto me : but yet forced vnto it, for many vrgent occasions, whiche craued as soone as my manual workes were finished, the present assistance of a diligent Keeper : so as then I admitted Mr James of Newe College, vpon special presumption of their fauorable liking, of whom-soeuer I should constitut : but of him in particular, for his honestie, and learning, and singular abilitie, to acquite himself of such a charge : besides his manifold desertes, in the publike late occasions of the Vniuersitie. And for the duties appertaining to his Office and Function, although some of them be specified in the old Decrees, yet are they most of suche a kinde, as according to the time, and state of thinges present, and the discrepant nature of this newe Institution, must either be reformed, or vtterly made voide : as there must for other causes be diuers newe ordeined. Which will be then perfourmed best, when by one yeres obseruation, they shall be able to discerne, where abuses may haue entrance, and what statutes to sette downe for their timely preuention. In the meane while I should thinke it might content, for this yeres trial, to tie the Keeper no further, by virtue of his othe, then according to the forme already prescribed, to be faithfull in his custodie, and diligent in opening and shutting the Librarie : referring him for his houres and daies of intermission, and for his maine direction in all other seruices, to that which certaine persons appointed vnto it, by publike consent, shall aduise him for the time. For suche I would request the Vniuersitie to delegat, and I will willingly ioine my travels to theirs, whereby to grownde my course of dealing, vpon a surer fundation then mine owne onely liking. Lastly for the stipend, whiche was allotted in time past, to the Keeper for his seruice, by the gifte, as I remember, of King Henry the fourth, it is a mater, in my opinion, to be aduisedly thought on, howe it should be nowe disposed. For were it so, as I

haue heard, that it was conferred on the Reader of the Lady Margarites Lecture, vpon the dissolution of the former Librarie : sith there is at this present an other newe a foote, I can not readily conceaue, howe it can be well withdrawen, from the vse assigned for it, in the first Donation. But being vtterly ignorant, howe that mater hath bin caried, I leaue it to them, to decide as they please. For that which I doe vtter, is all in respect, of the excessiue paines and cumbers, whiche will light vpon the Keeper, and will vndoubtedly deserue a farre greater stipend, then the summe of twentie poundes, which is all as yet by my designe, that is to be defalked from the annual rent of one hundred markes, provided for the Librarie. Howbeit I haue no meaning, neither is it a thing, that I could accord, to haue any part of it on the soddaine, deducted from the pension of the present Reader : but onely that heerafter it may be conuerted, when his reading is expired, to the purposes first intended. And when that resolution is publikly taken, I will both for the Reader and Keepers contentation, vntil this Readers place be vacant, disburse euery yere the twentie poundes, together with the summe of his ancient allowance. This is all in effect that I will recommend to their present consultation, whiche may suffice, I doe not doubt, for this yeres vsage of the Librarie : although I knowe that for heerafter, there must a formal booke be drawen, both of these and other statutes, concerning the recept, custodie, and imploiment of the publike reuenue, and of that whiche is conferred of beneuolence vpon it : and for the annual choise of Ouerseers, to take the Keepers Account of bookes, to suruey their defectes, for their bindinges, cheinings, placinges, and to enquire of all abuses : of whiche pointes in like sort, when the time shall be for it, I will be carefull to deliuer my priuat conceat : but still with that respect, that my duty requireth, in reseruing a power and authoritie to them, to alter all that I propose, as they by their experience, shall finde there is occasion. And thus without other

ceremonie, then earnest intreatie, that yow will not sticke to pardon my necessarie length of writing, and when the time shall be for it, to make report of the tenour to the Vniuersitie, I bidde yow very hartely and happely farewell.

your very assured frind

From London Tho. Bodley.
 Marche 27. 1602.

[pp. 11-14]

LETTER 15

To the right wor^{ll} M^r Doctor Singleton vicechancellor of the vniuersitie of Oxon.

Sir. About some three yeares past, I made a motion heere in London to M^r Paule Pindar Consull of the Company of the Englishe Marchantes at Aleppo a famous port in the Turkes dominions: that he would vse his best meanes, to procure me some bookes in the Syriacke Arabicke, Turkishe and Persian tongues, or in any other language of those Esterne nations: bycause I make no doubt but in processe of time, by the extraordinarie diligence of some one or other student they may bee readily vnderstoode, and some speciall vse made of their kinde of learninge in those partes of the worlde. And where I had a purpose to rembourse all the charge, that might growe therevpon he sent of late vnto me twentie severall volumes in the foresaid tongues and of his liberall disposition hath bestowed them freely on the Librarie. They are manuscriptes all (for in those cuntries they haue no kinde of printing) and were valued in that place at a verie highe rate. I will send them, er be longe, praying you the whyle, to notifie so much vnto the vniversitie and to move them to write a letter of thanks which I will finde meanes to convey to his handes, being lately departed from London to Constantinople. Whether the letter be indited in

Latin or Englishe it is not much materiall, but yet in my conceite it will doe best to him in Englishe. . . .

London 1611^o Novemb. 5th.

Tho. Bodley.

Sir M^r Pindars bookes treat of different maters in sundrie sciences as M^r James hath lately learned of a Persian, Secretarie to the Persian Ambassador Sir Robert Shirley from whose mouthe he hath taken notes of the subiect of as many of them, as the Persian vnderstoode.

[pp. 21-2]

From *Letters of Sir Thomas Bodley to the University of Oxford, 1598-1611*. Edited by G. W. Wheeler, Oxford, for private circulation, 1927.

CHAPTER IV

REV. JAMES KIRKWOOD (*circa* 1650-1708)

SCOTLAND has given birth to numerous prominent benefactors of librarianship, and even in the seventeenth century several of her sons were active in an endeavour to provide literature for the people, or for select groups. James Kirkwood and Samuel Brown in particular fostered the love of reading, made good literature available to a public cut off from the large towns, and sowed the seeds of interest in public libraries.

James Kirkwood was born about 1650 at Dunbar, Scotland, graduating M.A. at Edinburgh University in 1670. In the year 1690 Kirkwood corresponded with the Hon. Robert Boyle concerning the ignorance of the Gaelic people of scripture and general literature, freely distributing copies of the Bible to those too poor to purchase them. In 1699 appeared his anonymous pamphlet *An overture for founding and maintaining of bibliothecks, in every paroch throughout the Kingdom . . . humbly offered to the present assembly*,¹ which suggested that parish ministers should deposit their books to form the nucleus of parish libraries, the local schoolmaster acting as librarian. Four catalogues of each collection were to be written out, one each for the minister, the presbytery, the library and the central dépôt at Edinburgh. The minister was to receive the value of his books by means of an annual tax on the income of the parish, and every good book published was to be purchased. Kirkwood even visualised the setting up of a printing press for the publication of established

¹ Privately reprinted as *Proposals made by Rev. James Kirkwood in 1699, to found public libraries in Scotland*. . . .² With introductory remarks by William Blades, 1889.

classics and new works. The year 1702 saw the appearance of his second pamphlet, *A copy of a letter anent a project for erecting a library in every presbytery or at least county in the Highlands, [etc.]*, and two years later (March 29, 1704) the General Assembly passed "An act anent libraries in the Highlands," followed by further legislation in 1705, 1706 and 1709. Kirkwood wanted to see a library in every county in the Highlands, founded by public and private benefactions. Books were to be loaned to approved preachers, schoolmasters and students, every borrower depositing a quarter more than the value of the book, as shown in the catalogue, as security. Books were to be retained no longer than six weeks, and a half-yearly inspection was to be made by the Presbytery.

Many libraries were founded, but they suffered badly from neglect, most having completely disappeared by 1826. Kirkwood is believed to have founded a library for clergy in the Highlands in 1699. On March 4, 1703, he was elected a corresponding member of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, on March 11 of that year reading before the Society *Letters and papers from Mr. Kirkwood relating to the erection of lending libraries in the Highlands*.

James Kirkwood anticipated by many years the public demand for literature, and his object failed mainly because education must precede the desire for increased knowledge. He lived in advance of his contemporaries, and although the torch he kindled to all intents and purposes flickered out, his project was obviously a forerunner of the county library movement. In the year 1708 he died, bequeathing his books to the presbytery of Dunbar.¹

¹ See reference at end of Chapter.

JAMES KIRKWOOD ON PAROCHIAL LIBRARIES IN SCOTLAND

I. Books are so vastly multiplied, and do so encrease dayly, that most part of Students either want Money to buy any moderat Collection of them ; or 2 *ly*, they want Convenience to keep them, for Books are very troublesome to Transport from place to place ; or 3 *ly*, they have not them in due time, while they are young and free from Cares ; for after a man is settled in the World, then the Cares of his Family, and the Affairs of his Calling, do so take up his Mind, that he can have no time nor heart to study. 4. The Money that is bestowed upon Books must be looked upon as lost ; and this certainly is a great Discouragement. 5. Many Books which a Student shall happen to buy, will after perusal, be found little worth, at least for his purpose, whereby he is lamentably disappointed, and loseth both his Money and time. 6. We live at much distance from these famous Towns, where most part of Books are Printed, that there are many useful new Books Printed which we never hear of, and these we hear of, cannot be brought home to us without great Expenses and Trouble. 7. Although a Student had all the Advantages that can be reasonably expected in one man, yet he cannot Acquire all the Books in the World, that may relate to the Subject he studies ; and so he will still be uneasie and suspicious, that there may be something worth his Knowledge in these Books he wants. And it is not to be expected, that any man can advance or improve any Act or Science to a full Degree, till first he have a full and comprehensive Knowledge of all that hath been written and discovered of that Subject before him : and therefore compleat and free Libraries are absolutely necessary for the Improving of Arts and Sciences, and for Advancing of Learning amongst us.

For effectuating of this, and for remedying all the fore-named Inconveniencies, it is modestly conceived with submission to better Judgments, that the Founding and Maintaining of Bibliotheks in every Paroch within this

Kingdom, will be a most effectual means, for thereby a Student will have compleat Libraries within a few Miles of the place where he shall happen to reside, out of which he may easily furnish himself from time to time, of all sorts of Books fit for his purpose without Money, and that in his youth, while he hath health and strength to Study, and is free from the cares of the World, neither can he be troubled with useless Books, seeing he may presently return them to the Bibliothek and take others ; and Lastly, These Libraries in a few years, being furnished, not only with all the valuable and usefull Old Books in any Art or Science, but also with all the valuable New Books, so soon as ever they are heard of or seen in the World, as will clearly be demonstrat afterwards.

The Method and particulars which I think necessary for this Founding and Maintaining of Bibliotheks in every Paroch throughout this Kingdom are these.

1st. A convenient place in every Paroch must be set a part, and fitted for keeping of Books.

2 ly. Every present Minister must give in all his Books, to the Bibliothek of his own Paroch, at the sight of the Heretors of the Paroch, who shall cause rank them conform to their volumes, and shall cause take exact Alphabetical Catalogues of them, with the place where, and the time when they are printed, of which Catalogues, there must be four principal Coppies subscribed by the Minister and Heretors of each Paroch ; whereof one Copy shal be kept by the Minister, as an obligation upon the Paroch till he be payed for his Books, another shall be kept by the Heretors in a little Chist in the Bibliothek, that it may be an obligation upon the Keeper of the Bibliothek, to be answerable for all these Books ; the third must be kept in the Bibliothek openly, that any Heretor of the Paroch, or Minister of the Presbyterie may get a double of it when they please ; and the fourth Copy shall be sent to the principal Library at *Edinburgh*, to [be] kept there for several uses.

3 *dly.* For avoiding all debates and difficulties, that may arise between Heretors and Ministers in valuing these Books, it will be fit that some Ministers and Heretors be appointed to draw out a general Catalogue of all the Books in the Kingdom, out of those particular Catalogues that shall be sent in to *Edinburgh* from every Paroch, and to set a certain price upon each Book ; which general Catalogues with the price affixed to each Book, shall be Printed and distributed through every Paroch of the Kingdom, conform to which Catalogue, the Books in every Paroch shall be valued : or there may be laid down some general rules for valuing of Books at so much *per* Sheet, and so much for Binding.

4 *thly.* When any Minister shall die, or be removed from one Kirk to an other, then he or his Heirs or Assigneys, shall have right to all the Stipends of that Paroch to which he gave in his Books, ay and while he be payed of their full value conform to the Catalogue : and the Ministers of the Presbytery shall supply that Kirk during that time, but if the Paroch cannot conveniently want a minister so long, then the succeeding Minister shall want such a proportional part of the Stipend as shall be thought fit, which shall be payed yearly to the first Minister, his Heirs or assigneys, till the full value of his Books be payed.

5 *thly.* Where the Kirks are vacant, the Ministers of the Presbyterie with the Heretors of the Paroch, shall have power to bestow all the vacant Stipends of that Kirk, upon such Books as they shall think most fit and necessary for the Bibleothek¹ of that Kirk.

6 *thly.* Each Presbyterie shall endeavour to be a compleat Library within it self, that is, they shall endeavour to have one Copy at least, of every valuable Book extant in some one Bibliothek or other within their bounds ; wherefore it will be necessary that all the Ministers in one Presbyterie, compare their Catalogues,

¹ This word is also spelled "Bibliotheek" in Kirkwood's book, and is here copied as printed. [J. L. T.]

and consider of what Books they have more Coppies than are needful amongst them, and what Books they think useful ; of which they have no Coppies at all, that they may exchange the Books they have for these they want, conform to the value set on each Book by the general Catalogue.

7 *thly*. The keeper of the Bibleothek, who may be the Reader or School-master of the Paroch, must find caution to the Minister and Heretors, to be faithful in keeping the Books, and in preserving them from all inconveniences ; and he shall not lend out any Book but to an Heretor of the Paroch, or to a Minister of the Presbyterie, or to such persons residing within the Paroch as shall find sufficient caution for all the books they get out of the Library, and he shall take obligations from them all, that they shall restore the Books in good condition, and within such a set time as may be sufficient for reading the Book, but within one Moneth at farthest ; that so an Heretor may not defraud the rest of the use of any Book. And for preventing the imbazling the Books of thir Libraries, it is fit there be a note written upon the reverse of the Title page, and on the last leaf of each Book Subscribed by the Minister, declaring that the Book belongeth to the Bibleothek of such a Paroch, so that wherever any Book shall be found wanting the Title page and the last leaf, it may be suspected to be stollen from the Libraries, and so may be confiscat to their use.

8 *thly*. It will be convenient that there be a Book binder in every Presbyterie, to bind all the Books that belong to that Presbyterie, for which end he must be provided with a House, and all the Instruments fit for his Trade, and with some small Stipend yearly to maintain him ; and then whatsoever Books he shall bind he shall be payed only for the materials, but nothing for his work ; or the keepers of the Bibleothek or Ministers Servants may be taught to bind Books, and may easiely bind all the new Books that shall be given in to that Library in Sheets.

9 *thly*. It will be convenient that all the Bibliothicks in the Kingdom observe the same method of ranking and placing their Books : which method may be to rank the Books according to their name and number, in the general Catalogue, which name and number must be written upon a piece of paper, and battered to the back of the Book, or to some leaf of it, that it may be easiely seen and read, by any person that comes into the Bibliothick, that so Ministers or Students, when they shall happen to remove from one Paroch or Bibliothick to another, they may not be at a loss where to find any Book, for by this method they will presently know in what place every Book should stand.

These are all the particulars which I think necessary for the present for founding of Bibliothicks in every Paroch, but for the maintaining and promoting these it will be necessary further, that.

10 *thly*. One Moneths Cess to be payed yearly, to be settled as a Fond for buying and Printing, all such Books New or Old, as shall be judged valuable and usefull to be distributed through the Kingdom, and every Bibliothek in the Kingdom shall get a Copy of every Book that shall be printed : the one half of this Moneths Cess must be payed by the Heretors conform to the proportions of their Stipends.

11 *thly*. This Money or Fond must be entrusted to some honest Person or Persons, who shall therewith Erect a Printing-House, and Paper Manufactory, and shall settle and maintain a Correspondence with all the Printing presses abroad throughout *Europe*, and shall bring home some Coppies of all the Books that shall be Printed, as soon as possible, and shall Reprint all such Books whether New or Old, as shall be judged fitting, or worthy to be distributed through the Kingdom, and they shall be oblidged to give up Accompts how the Money is bestowed, from time to time to such Ministers and others, as shall be appointed to receive, and examine the same.

12 *thly*. A Commission of the General Assembly must be appointed, to Revise all the New Books that are brought home from time to time, and to give some short Account of them in Print, or to employ such persons as they shall judge most fit for that Work : and to Revise all the Old Books, and to determine what Books shall be Printed every Moneth, and to receive and examine the Printers Accompts.

This is a method which I think will be both easie and effectual for establishing and promoting of Bibliotheks in every Paroch throughout this Kingdom, neither do I foresee any material Objection, that can be made against any particular Article of it.

[pp. 25-41]

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You may remember, That I had some Discourse with you, when I was in *Scotland* ; About Libraries for the *Highlands*, at which time also I shewey [*sic*] you a Schem, about ordering the Libraries. . . . The great examples of Charity, which this Kingdom afford, particularly in what concerns Libraries for the Plantations, have animated and disposed me to fall to work, and to try what may be done for those in our Native Country, who need such helps and encouragements as much as any. I need not say much about the Reasons for this Undertaking. The Printed Paper which I send you, will show how great and important they are, and it is likely, your own knowledge and observation, will furnish you with others.

I thought fit to mention the kinds of Books which we intend to purchase ; That they who give Books, and not Money may know what sort of Treatises we aim at, and may not put us off with trash. As for Popish Books and perhaps some others likeways, tho they be not fit for the weaker sort of People ; yet for the Library of a Divine they are convenient and necessary, that so they be the more able to deal with the Adversary. I suppose

no body of any discretion or Learning will question this.

[pp. 61-3]

It would be of some advantage to this design, if you and some others of the Ministry, would write to some Ministers of the Presbyterian way, at *London* to move them to concur in this Affair : And if to all this were added some endeavours in *Scotland*, to procure some Books, or Money to buy them, we might then hope to get Libraries erected in Each Presbytry-Seat of the *Highlands*, and perhaps for *Orkney* and *Zetland*, whose need of Books is likeways apparent.

[pp. 65-6]

AN ACCOUNT OF A DESIGN ABOUT ERECTING SOME
LIBRARIES IN THE HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND, FOR THE
USE CHIEFLY OF MINISTERS AND PROBATIONERS

The Reasons for setting on foot this Design are :

I. The great scarcity of Books among the Ministers in those Parts, some of them hardly having so many as are worth twenty shillings.

II. The small Provision many of them have in the *Highlands* (tho in other parts of the Kingdom, Ministers are for the most part, much better provided for) so that very few of them can spare anything out of their poor livings towards the purchasing of Books.

III. The great industry of the *Romish Missionaries* amongst them makes it necessary for them to be tolerably provided with such Books, as may enable them to encounter their Adversaries.

IV. The gross ignorance of the People in those parts, together with some late endeavours to seduce the Inhabitants of the Isle of *Hirta* into a state of Heathenism, make it very necessary that they should be provided with

such Treatises as prove the Truth of the Christian Religion.

V. The Excellent Parts and Capacities of the Ministers generally throughout the *Highlands*; as they invite generous and charitable Persons to afford them what assistance they can, in this kind; so they give good ground to expect much fruit from such a Charity.

VI. As such Libraries will be of extraordinary Advantage to the Ministers, so they will be greatly useful to such young men as intend for the Sacred Office, who cannot acquire any tolerable measure of necessary and useful knowledge, unless they are furnish'd with a sufficient number of good Books.

VII. To all which must be added their great distance from all such places where they might either buy or borrow such Books as are useful to them.

To Answer in part the above-mention'd Design, it is intended, to have one Library in each County of the *Highlands*; except where there are but few Parishes, in which case, one Library is at first to serve two or three Counties: Their Number may be afterwards increased as Encouragement is given.

The Money or Books which shall be given may be put into the hands of Mr. *Taylor* a Bookseller at the Ship, or of Mr. *Robinson* at the Golden Lion in St. *Paul's* Church-yard, who will give the Benefactors a note of what Money or Books shall be intrusted to them.

[pp. 73-6]

Extracts from *Two tracts on the founding and maintaining of parochial libraries in Scotland*. By James Kirkwood, Chicago, 1906. (Dana, John Cotton, and Kent, Henry W. Eds. *Literature of libraries in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries*. IV.)

CHAPTER V

DR. THOMAS BRAY (1656-1730)

CERTAIN of the libraries established by Dr. Bray, and by his "Associates" still exist as monuments to the activities of a great man, who foresaw the enormous possibilities of the development of libraries in isolated areas almost two hundred years before the field was really cleared for the establishment of county libraries. Although Bray's libraries were intended primarily for the clergy, he widened their scope and was directly responsible for the foundation of numerous libraries both in this country and abroad.

Thomas Bray was born at Marton, Shropshire, in 1656, attending school at Oswestry before entering Hart Hall, Oxford, to study theology. In 1699 he went to Maryland, three years after he had been appointed Commissary of that colony, and he proposed that parochial libraries should be provided there for the use of ministers. Later, Bray planned to establish a lending library in every deanery throughout England and Wales. He established libraries at Gravesend, Deal and Plymouth for the use of clergy awaiting embarkation at those ports. In 1700-1701 Bray returned from Maryland, and in 1706 went to St. Bartolph-without-Aldgate. He was the author of numerous ecclesiastical works, and in 1726 appeared his *Primordia bibliothecaria*, containing several schemes of parochial libraries. Previous to this, however, an "Act for the better preservation of parochial libraries in that part of Great Britain called England" (7 Anne, c. xiv), known as Dr. Bray's Act, had been passed in 1708.

Bray desired to establish Marine libraries for chaplains of men-of-war, and left £25 in his will for that purpose. He founded about fifty libraries in America and elsewhere abroad, sixty-one parochial libraries in England and Wales, fifty-seven lending catechetical libraries in England and Wales, and sixteen in the Isle of Man. After his death the work was carried on by "The Associates of Dr. Bray" who founded the following number of parochial libraries: 1757 (8); 1760 (1); 1761 (16); 1762 (1); 1764 (1); 1765 (16); 1766 (16); 1768 (8); 1807 (1); and thirty-six lending libraries between 1753 and 1807.

Thomas Bray died in London on February 15, 1730, leaving a son and a daughter. He bequeathed his library to the Parochial Library of Sheldon (where he had been rector from 1690 to 1696), and certain volumes to other libraries.

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Smith, George. Dr. Thomas Bray. *Library Association Record*, 12, 1910, pp. 242-60. [Portrait of Bray facing p. 221.]

[Smith, Samuel]. *Publick spirit illustrated in the life and designs of the Reverend Thomas Bray, D.D., formerly Minister of St. Botolph Without Aldgate, London. To which are added the designs and proceedings of those who now form the Society which he instituted, and other illustrations. The second edition, revised*, 1808. [1st edition 1746.] [In addition to his life and activities this contains the Act of Parliament (7 Anne, c. xiv) relating to Parochial libraries, lists of libraries founded by Bray, and by his Associates, a list of Associates, catalogues of his books and MSS. bequeathed to Sion College, etc.]

BRAY ON PAROCHIAL LIBRARIES

He proposed "That Each Clergyman should subscribe some small matter proportionable to the value of his Living or Circumstances in the World; the Gentry, what in their Generosity they shall think fit."

"And the subscriptions of both to be taken and return'd to London ; and the Libraries transmitted into the Country in the Method following.

"1. That one third of the Subscription-Money, viz. 10*£*, be subscrib'd and paid at the next Easter-Visitation . . . and return'd up to the Treasurers of the Subscription, Mr. Francis Evans, Secretary to the Lord Bishop of Coventry and Litchfield, or Mr. Thomas Taylor at the Lord Almoner's Lodgings in Whate-Hall.

"2. That within a Month after, Books to the value of Thirty Pound, be sent down into the subscribing Deaneries, and that they be made up in such Boxes, or Book-Presses with Shelves in them, and Locks and Doors to 'em, as will serve both to preserve 'em in the Carriage down, and in the Place where they shall be deposited for the Publick Benefit. And being kept in such moveable Repositories, they can at any time be remov'd to any part of the Deanary, as by the vote of the Clergy at a Visitation shall be judged most convenient to have 'em log'd in ; and that without the Charge of building any Room wherein to lay 'em up.

"3. That to make up the remaining Two Thirds for the Purchase of the Books, each of the Clergy do in their respective Parishes, and amongst the Gentry of their Acquaintance solicit some small Subscription towards this Publick Design, by which such Subscribers, whether Gentlemen or Ladies, will be entitled to the Priviledge of borrowing at any time a Book for their own Reading ; and that there may be proper and acceptable Books for them, there are some of the most valuable pieces of History, Geography, and Travels provided in the following sett."

"That the Books shall be afforded to the Subscribers something below the prices at which the Clergy or Gentry usually buy in by Retail in the Booksellers' Shops," and

"That what *Gratis* Books will be obtain'd of the Bookseller in consideration of so many bought of 'em towards these Lending Libraries : that these be set

apart towards making up Parochial Libraries for the Foreign Plantations."

" . . . There is but one Objection I can foresee against this Method of procuring these Lending Libraries, and that is the excessive scarcity of Money."

" If it could be brought about by any means, that we might have 400 Lending Libraries fixt throughout the kingdom " each of which would take one copy of every new edition of a father or ancient writer such as St. Cyprian, Thucydides, or other book of value, then—" whereas some Thousand Pounds worth of valuable Books, printed in Foreign parts, have been Imported Yearly, we by reason of the better Editions of the Ancient Writers, which our Learned Men are able to give the World, might be able to employ our own Paper-makers, Stationers, Printers, Book-binders, Book-sellers here at home, to the maintaining many Thousand Persons amongst us, and might export so much of our own, and Foreign Paper manufactured by our Selves, as would turn the Balance of that part of Trade, considerably to our own side."

He goes on, " As for our Younger Gentry, I cannot think but it would tend extreamly to furnish their Minds also with that useful Knowledge in History, Travels, Humanity, Agriculture, and all such Noble Arts and Sciences, as will render 'em considerable both at home and abroad. And that it will very much keep 'em from idle Conversation, and the Debaucheries attending it, to have choice Collections of such Books dispers'd through all the Kingdom, and waiting upon 'em in their own parlors, as will ennoble their Minds with principles of Vertue and True Honour, and will file off that Roughness, Ferity and Barbarity, which are the never failing Fruits of Ignorance and Illiterature. Standing Libraries will signifie little in the Country, where Persons must ride some miles to look into a Book ; such Journeys being too expensive of Time and Money : But Lending Libraries, which come home to 'em without Charge, may tolerably well supply the Vacancies in



PLATE 2
DR. THOMAS BRAY (1656-1730)

their own Studies, till such time as these Lending Libraries may be improv'd into Parochial Libraries."

From Smith, George. Dr. Thomas Bray. *Library Association Record*, 12, 1910, pp. 242-60.

THE BRAY CLERICAL LIBRARIES

Dr. Bray believed most firmly in the necessity of the clergy keeping up their studies after ordination, if they were to be efficient ministers of Divine truth. His *Catechetical Lectures* (pub. 1696), the *Bibliotheca Parochialis*, with a catalogue of books (1697), and an *Essay towards Promoting all Necessary Useful Knowledge* (pub. 1697), together with his founding libraries at the seaports of Gravesend, Deal and Plymouth, before his voyage to Maryland, were succeeded on his return by the publication of a book on the Roman controversy, his *Directorium Missionarium*, *Primordia Bibliothecaria*, the *Ecclesiastes* of Erasmus, and the establishment of libraries in various rural deaneries. The Act "For the better preservation of parochial libraries," (7 Anne, c. xiv. 1708), was passed at his instigation, and is still part of the statute law of the land, though not much acted upon, we fear. The Bray Libraries are under the control of a body known as the Associates of Dr. Bray; the Archbishop of Canterbury is the president, and the secretary is the Rev. H. W. Tucker, of the S.P.G. So far as we can learn, the work of control has been performed in a somewhat perfunctory way, the Associates doing little more than making grants from time to time, and at long intervals sending out inquiry forms, which in many cases are not answered. We know from personal observation that the condition of the Bray Libraries leaves a good deal to be desired, and from the last report received we find that no fewer than 160 of them, founded at various dates between 1750 and 1850, are "no longer existing," some of them being transferred to other places, but the majority we expect

"lost," or, in plainer English, stolen. There are about 156 libraries existing in England and Wales, and over 150 in different colonies and foreign possessions ; many of them seem to have been "augmented" in recent years, and are therefore, probably well used. The funds controlled by the Associates are, apparently, about £4,800 in amount, besides £64 a year or so received in subscriptions. The interest and the subscriptions amount to about £150 per annum. In the last report to hand, the grants of books cost £150, and the expenses of management came to £31.

From the figures quoted, it is clear that Dr. Bray's intentions have not been realised to any very great extent, and we suggest that before the S.P.G. Bicentenary has passed away a strenuous effort should be made to put the Association on a much better footing. Everybody knows by this time (booksellers especially) that the clergy are not able to buy books as they were able to do when the tithe was at par, whilst it is also true, though not so well known, that many of them are more diligent in reading than was the case some fifty years ago. Not to mention the modern institution of summer lectures, reading associations, book-clubs, etc., are probably more numerous to-day than at any time during the past century. Whether the reading is of the high character that was enterprised when fewer men read, we know not ; probably it is in most cases lower. What needs encouragement is reading which involves research ; and at a time when the laity, or many of them, are made familiar with the results of thought in other than clerical circles, by means of magazine articles and reviews, it is more than ever necessary that the clergy should bend themselves to studies which are really studies, and not mere *résumés* of what a few leading minds are thinking. Dr. Bray's mind would be, we feel sure, that his libraries should be stocked with works of the highest ability, works of reference, and books that from their cost are beyond the means of the average parish priest or his assistants. The Bray Associates

ought, therefore, to have this before them as their proper function—the provision of books that otherwise would be beyond the reach of the clergy ; and, as there are at least four or five hundred of such works that ought to be found within the library of every deanery, it is evident that the fund has a large task before it, and one incapable of fulfilment without a considerable increment of invested money. But it is not an impossible task, for we have sufficient confidence in the desire of the laity that their clergy should be well-read men to believe that, if a general appeal were made in each deanery needing a library, or for the improvement of an existing library, the money would be forthcoming. Men of the learned professions, other than the clerical, do not hesitate to say that the clergy know less about the matters proper to their profession than the men of any other calling. The reproach ought not to continue to be deserved, nor will it if a strenuous effort be made in the direction we advocate.

By the admission of the Associates themselves, the oversight of the libraries needs reform ; practically it is non-existent, for what can be the use of an inquiry form which is treated with contempt ? One of two things is needed—either the appointment of an inspector, who should make a triennial visit to the whole of the Bray Libraries, and send his report to the bishop of the diocese as well as to the Associates, or that the bishops should require from their rural deans, or archdeacons—the former preferably—a yearly report as to the condition and use made of the several libraries. The scandalous neglect at present existing should at least be made a thing of the past.

In some deaneries the housing of the books is a difficulty, but it is not insuperable where men are really in earnest about sacred study, and it need not detain us further than to remark that the library, in deaneries where one room is always used for the chapter meetings, should be in that room. About the worst place for the library is in some vicarage, for we imagine

a large percentage of the "lost" libraries must have disappeared at the death of clerics in whose houses libraries found repose. By the Act already referred to, the churchwardens are to lock up the books of such a library on the decease of an incumbent and their responsibility ceases only when they have handed the keys over to the new incumbent. Is this ever done? As in many other matters, we have the law clearly stated, if only men care to obey it.

Extract from *Library Association Record*, Vol. 3, i, 1901, pp. 29-31.

CHAPTER VI

SAMUEL BROWN (1779-1839)

ONE hundred years before Brown was born James Kirkwood had published his first pamphlet advocating the establishment of parochial libraries. Many had been founded, but the movement had died of stagnation, and Brown attempted to remedy the weakness in Kirkwood's scheme by interchanging the collections of books at regular intervals.

Samuel Brown was born at Haddington on April 30, 1779, and in 1817, while Provost of Haddington, established a system of itinerating libraries in East Lothian. His ambition was to provide a library within one and a half miles of every person in the county, and with an initial stock of 200 volumes divided into four groups he established collections at Aberlady, Salton, Tynninghame and Garvald, each under an honorary librarian. Brown planned to interchange the books every two years, and after 1832 borrowers were charged one penny during the first year the books were at each centre. As a further method for the defrayment of expenses new books were kept for two years at Haddington, North Berwick and Dunbar for the use of subscribers paying five shillings annually. During the two year period 1817-1819 Brown's original two hundred volumes were issued 1461 and 733 times respectively, and in 1819-1820 (after the first change), 1313 and 928 issues were recorded.

By 1836 Brown had forty-seven libraries operating, the stock of 2,380 volumes having been obtained by means of donations, and books that had served for two years in the subscription libraries. The scheme was

popular, and libraries were established in various parts of Great Britain, while Brown sent similar libraries to Canada, Jamaica, St. Petersburg and South Africa.

Finance was the chief obstacle to the growth of the movement, and Brown overworked, although he had never enjoyed good health. In fact his scheme of itinerating libraries had been planned during his recovery from a protracted illness, which period he also spent visiting prisoners in a local jail, and lending them books. When Samuel Brown died on July 13, 1839, his libraries contained 3,850 volumes. His brother, Dr. William Brown, who assisted him with the scheme, described it in a pamphlet entitled *Memoir relative to itinerating libraries*, which was translated into French and German, and extracts from which follow.

REFERENCE

[Brown, Samuel]. *Some account of itinerating libraries and their founder*, Edinburgh, 1856. [Portrait, which is reproduced as Plate 3.]

DR. WILLIAM BROWN ON ITINERATING LIBRARIES

I. The primary feature of these libraries is their itinerating character. * * * It is well known that stationary libraries in country places very commonly cease, after a few years, to excite much interest, that the funds rapidly diminish, that the addition of new books which is made from time to time becomes, in consequence of this, too small to inspire any degree of curiosity, and that most of the volumes lie undisturbed on the shelves, unread and uncalled for. To persons acquainted with the issues from stationary libraries of a number of years standing, the following statement will appear almost incredible. The issues of new books at Haddington to subscribers, have on an average of the last two years, been nearly eight and a half times per annum for each volume: the gratuitous issues at Haddington, Gifford, Salton, Aberlady, North Berwick, Belhaven, and Spott have been seven times for each

volume ; and issues of the books of the whole establishment (now amounting to upwards of 2,000 volumes) have, so far as reported, been five times for each volume, or 10,000 issues of the whole. . . . Such indeed has been the interest excited by the regular removal of the libraries, and the supply of new divisions, that in several places, during the winter season, the whole of the books have been issued at once, not a volume has been left in the library.

II. A second important feature of these libraries is their *cheapness*. When the object is to supply not a single town or village with a library, but a whole country or a whole kingdom, *cheapness* comes to be a primary *desideratum*. A single library of fifty volumes with book-case, catalogue, labels, advertisements and issuing-books, may be procured for from £10 to £12 ; but the cost will of course depend in a considerable degree on the kind of books wanted, and whether they have been recently published. Very good divisions may be selected for from £8 to £10. Taking the medium of these rates, namely £10, the following number of libraries might be established for the sum stated :

1 for a village	...	...	...	£10
5 for a district of villages	...	...	...	50
50 for a county	...	...	...	500

Supposing the books in these libraries to be read on an average annually, in the proportion which has just been stated, namely five times for each volume, this in twenty years, the period for which a library is found to last, will amount to 100 issues for every volume, or 5,000 issues for the whole of the books in each library : and 250,000 issues for the whole of the books in fifty libraries.

III. It is an important characteristic of these Libraries that there is in them a principle of *Self-production*. * * * Originally all the libraries were entirely gratuitous ; a small box was merely attached to each library, to afford

the readers an opportunity of giving any small donation they might think proper ; but some years ago a plan was adopted of keeping *new* books at Haddington for the use of all persons who gave a small annual subscription, to the value of double the amount of their whole contributions, and the plan was extended to North Berwick and Dunbar. This arrangement has been extended with complete success. Previous to the adoption of this measure, the greatest number of annual subscribers did not exceed eight ; now they amount to 162. . . .

In consequence of there being stations for *new* books in three different towns, it has been found practicable to furnish the subscribers with a much greater number of recent publications, by means of a mutual exchange between these places, than would have been practicable had the plan been limited to a single town. By the subscriptions too, the means are in part furnished for providing new books for the following year. In 1829, the subscriptions and donations from these three places, including an Agricultural branch, amounted to £39, 14s. 6d., and the donations from gratuitous readers to £7, 12s. 3d., making in all £47, 6s. 9d.

Hitherto the books have been issued gratuitously from the other libraries, but it is proposed in future, now that a spirit of reading has been excited in the county, to issue the books the first year that a division is in a place, at the rate of a penny a volume ; but as a subscription, however small, might essentially impede the success of the scheme, and as it is of immense consequence to bring the books within the reach of the whole population, particularly of the young, whom it is of peculiar importance to form to habits of reading and reflection, they will still continue to be issued gratuitously, the second year. By such a system, combined with the plan of lending out the books when new to subscribers of 5s.—each division may, on an average, be expected to produce the sum of 25s. a-year, which, as the number of libraries increases, will prove the fruitful parent of new libraries.



PLATE 3
SAMUEL BROWN (1779-1839)



If a British and Foreign Itinerating Library Society were established in London, and were able to raise £5000 a year for the formation of such libraries, they might, within a moderate period of time cover the whole of Europe with such Institutions, by getting up divisions of fifty volumes each, with book-cases, etc., granting them on loan for 25s. a year, which many individuals would willingly pay, as they might more than reimburse themselves by lending out the books; or by adopting the plan which has just been suggested, a sum equal to this would in most places be easily raised. . . .

If, however, it should be found impracticable to establish a society with an income of £5000 a year, the plan may be carried on, in consequence of this principle of self-production in a county or particular district, by a society or an individual who is able to raise, say £50 annually, for this purpose. By the regular application of such a sum yearly to this object, a whole county, or even a still larger district, would in the course of no long period, be completely covered with libraries.

Extracts from *Memoir relative to itinerating libraries* printed in Appendix of, [Brown, Samuel]. *Some account of itinerating libraries and their founder*, Edinburgh, 1856, pp. 105-9. [Portrait.]

CHAPTER VII

EDWARD EDWARDS (1812-1886) FATHER OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT

THOSE enjoying the facilities offered by public libraries in this country are apt to disregard the person to whom thanks are due for the initial labours resulting in the legislation necessary to make the maintenance of public libraries possible. His name remained in the background during most of the proceedings, but he was responsible for the material upon which the legislators based their arguments, and although his writings have deeply influenced the development, his obscure, even unfortunate, career contributed to the lack of adequate recognition of his genius. Edward Edwards possessed a passion for libraries, their welfare being his constant consideration, and his painstaking research work gaining him a good knowledge of literature. Financial difficulties, and a peculiar sadness displayed throughout his life, prevented the full expression of his great, deeply religious mind.

Edward Edwards was born in London on December 14, 1812, the son of a builder, and had two sisters. The support of these, and that of his mother, contributed largely to his extreme poverty in later life, but this obligation was carefully concealed from even his most intimate friends by the sensitive Edwards. He daily frequented the British Museum, and was a constant contributor of letters and pamphlets on facilities at that institution and on the provision of libraries in general. On March 27, 1835, it was ordered by Parliament that a Select Committee be appointed to enquire into the affairs of the British

Museum, the report of this Committee running into 600 pages. Edwards commented on this report in a letter to Benjamin (afterwards Sir Benjamin) Hawes (1797-1862), dated December 14, 1835. Hawes suggested that Edwards should give evidence should the Committee be revived, and Edwards then published anonymously his *Remarks on the "Minutes of Evidence" taken before the Select Committee on the British Museum*, dated February 15, 1836, one of several pamphlets published by Edwards. On February 11, 1836, Parliament ordered the formation of the second Select Committee, and on June 2 Edwards was examined.

In January, 1839, Edwards was appointed supernumerary assistant in the British Museum Library, where he remained until 1850, his most important work being the cataloguing of the Thomason collection of pamphlets relating to the Civil War. After a disagreement with Panizzi, Edwards left the British Museum, to become the first librarian of Manchester Public Library in 1850. Meanwhile he again gave evidence at the Select Committee of 1849, formed largely as the result of Ewart's interest in an article on "Public libraries in Europe," contributed by Edwards to the *Transactions of the Statistical Society of London*, 1848. William Ewart (1798-1869) and Joseph Brotherton (1783-1857) had been responsible for the Museums Act of 1845, and with the assistance of Edward Edwards they now successfully steered the 1850 Act through Parliament, largely as the result of the painstaking efforts of Edwards.

Manchester Free Library was opened on September 6, 1852, and Edwards exerted himself to build it into a collection worthy of the city housing it. Unfortunately, he resented officialdom, and in 1858 he was dismissed. Edwards then worked spasmodically, cataloguing in some of the libraries at Oxford, and doing literary work to support himself. He wrote the article "Libraries" in the eighth edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 1857, and in 1859 appeared his monumental

Memoirs of libraries, in two volumes, followed by *Libraries and founders of libraries*, 1864, *Free town libraries*, 1869, and *Lives of the founders of the British Museum*, 1870.

Edwards wrote numerous other books and articles, a chronological list of which is available in the life of Edwards written by Greenwood.¹ Thomas Greenwood (1851-1908), a publisher, was keenly interested in the public library movement, and was an ardent admirer of Edwards, to whom he erected a memorial at Niton, where Edwards is buried. Greenwood also collected a mass of material relating to Edwards, upon which he based his biography, before depositing the material, with a collection of books on librarianship, in Manchester Public Library to found the Thomas Greenwood Library for Librarians. Greenwood paints a sympathetic picture of Edwards, without glossing over his faults, and his description of the last days of our subject are very moving. In 1883 Edwards had been granted a civil pension of £80 per annum, upon which he could not hope to exist, and the struggles of the broken old gentleman against absolute poverty were pitiful to the extreme. On February 10, 1886, Edward Edwards died at Niton, Isle of Wight, and was buried there. Of recent years his contributions to librarianship have begun to be appreciated, but an opportunity to perpetuate his name by associating it with the headquarters of the Library Association was unfortunately rejected in favour of a far less obvious choice.

A modern biography of Edwards based upon the material available at Manchester would celebrate the centenary of the 1850 Act in a fitting manner, and would reflect credit upon the central figure in the proceedings leading to the passing of that Act.

REFERENCE

Greenwood, Thomas. *Edward Edwards, the chief pioneer of municipal public libraries*, 1902.

¹ Greenwood, Thomas. *Edward Edwards, the chief pioneer of municipal public libraries*, 1902, pp. 223-230.

[Edwards carefully revised his *Memoirs of libraries*, and some of the sheets of the second edition were printed in 1885. All the sheets revised and printed by him were bound together and issued for presentation by Thomas Greenwood in 1901, and the following preface by the author is of special interest.]

EDWARDS' PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION OF HIS
"MEMOIRS OF LIBRARIES"

The Work of which a new Edition is now submitted to the Public was published, in its original form, in January, 1859. It then consisted of *three* distinct sections, only one of which is, at present, reissued. It comprised (1,) A History of the Libraries of Greek and Roman Antiquity, together with—so far as is yet known to me—the *first* and *only* collection, textually complete, of those passages of the Greek and Latin writers in which the Ancient Libraries are described, referred to, or illustrated. That Section I do not propose (at least, for the time) to reprint. It comprised (2,) A History of Mediæval and Modern Libraries, complete, as far as the sources of knowledge available in 1858, admitted. Of this section, a first *instalment* is now before the Reader. Lapse of time has made the historical part of the "Memoirs of Libraries," of 1859, much in arrear. An enormous amount of new information concerning even the oldest Libraries of Europe, and concerning those, necessarily so recent, of America, is now available. And in addition, more than one hundred new Libraries have in our own country alone—Colonial as well as Metropolitan—been founded. Four-fifths at least of these (reckoning as well the "Free Libraries" of our Colonies as those of the Empire at home) are the results of those "Public Libraries Acts" of 1850, and subsequent years, down to the year of present publication (as it is hoped), which had their first inception, and origin in the labours, during the years 1847, 1848 and 1849, of the present Writer, and in his evidence before

Parliamentary Committees—Acts procured, amidst difficulties and against opposition which, in 1885, seems scarcely credible, by the strenuous effort and perseverance of an eminent Member of Parliament whose name will ever be, most deservedly, linked with the “Free Libraries” of Her Gracious Majesty’s whole Empire—Mr. William Ewart, the *parliamentary* author of the Library Legislation of 1850 and subsequent years—as will be shewn in due place hereinafter. It comprised (3,) an elaborate Treatise on the Legislation, the Economy, the Administration, and the Practical Working, of Public Libraries. This, also, is (at least for the present) *omitted* from the new Edition; though certain portions of those several topics must needs be adverted to either in the historical part of that “General Introduction” which is prefixed to the present volume, or in that review of public Legislation concerning or affecting Libraries which follows.

At the writer’s advanced time of life, he could scarcely hope that—in addition to the final revision of this volume (and of its companion volumes, D.V.)—he might be able to give to the economical and administrative section of his former work of 1859 that patient and thorough correction, and improvement in details, which would alone justify him in offering a new edition of *it* to the learned and able Librarians, and to the Lovers of Books, of 1885, and of the years to come.

The “General Introduction” on the whole subject-matter of “Memoirs of Libraries, 1885,” aims at tracing in the briefest possible form, consistent with clearness (1,) The foundation and growth of important Libraries both mediæval and modern, up to this date; (2,) the present *geographical* distribution, and the statistical place of the chief Libraries of the world; thus shewing, in this one particular, the relative position of the several States of which Christendom is composed.

The “Introduction” endeavours, finally, to trace in briefest outline the Public Legislation bearing (directly

or indirectly) on the administration of Public Libraries, and on the State-distribution of Public Books—such books, namely, of every kind as are printed at the cost of the Nation, or produced, in other ways, for governmental purposes.

On the last-named subject the writer has bestowed special care and pains. It is a subject, the importance of which has greatly increased. Thirty years ago, a Select Committee of the House of Commons (presided over by the late Mr. Tufnell) reported its opinion that Libraries freely accessible to the Public ought to receive Public Books (whether printed for Parliament, or for any of the various administrative Departments of State,) free of all cost. That recommendation remains yet to be carried out. The recent inquiries into the system pursued for the Promulgation of the Statutes have made it apparent that even as regards that most essential “promulgation,” very great anomalies subsist. Substantially, the plan of distribution existing in 1884 was very nearly what it had been made in 1831. The claims of Public Libraries are still practically ignored; yet there are no books,—unless love of country is (under influence of “the modern spirit,”) to be regarded as a thing only of the days that are no more,—the importance of bringing which under the eyes of all men, of what rank and condition in life soever, is greater or more urgent, than books of a governmental character. The Statutes, and the Papers of Parliament excepted, there is no class of books in the wide circulation of which the *Nation* has a deeper interest (especially under recent legislation,) than in that of the invaluable several series of publications printed for the Board of Admiralty;—for the Trustees of the British Museum;—for the Master of the Rolls;—for the Department of Education, Science and Art;—for the Commissioners of Patents;—and other like governmental bodies. A more liberal distribution of these, as well as of the “blue-books,” proper, to our Public Libraries, would alike promote National Education (in the highest sense of the words), and

would do honour to the Government that should wisely organise such a distribution.

It was the writer's strong desire to do somewhat more in the treatment of the subject-matter of the "General Introduction," by adding as an Appendix to it a corrected reproduction, in tabular form, of the "Statistical View of Public Libraries in Europe and in America" which he wrote in the year 1847 (it was, indeed, begun before the Christmas of 1846), and read to the Statistical Society of London in March, 1848, (at a meeting presided over by the late lamented Earl Fitzwilliam) with eventual results which without vanity or presumption he may say have, in their degree, made an epoch in the Annals of Libraries, not alone in Britain and on many parts of the Continent of Europe, but in most of the British Colonies throughout all parts of the world, and in many parts of the United States of America.

The substance of that "Statistical View" was again given, verbally, to a Select Committee of the House of Commons upon Public Libraries, during the writer's five or six several examinations before it in the Sessions of 1849 and 1850. That Committee was appointed in the first-named Session, on the motion (as I have already reminded the Reader, who may honour this Preface with a perusal,) of Mr. William Ewart, and at the solicitation of the present writer, who drew up in English, French, and German, those "*Questions on Public Libraries*" which, through the medium of the Foreign Office, were presented at every Court throughout the world, to which any British Envoy was accredited. The results were published in several "Appendices" to the various Reports of the Committee from 1849 to 1852 inclusive.

Finally, the "Statistical View" was itself reprinted in one of those Appendices; after it had been already reprinted, by the courtesy of Dr. Robert Naumann, in the Leipsic journal "*Serapeum*"—the greatest and most valuable repertory of information on Libraries and

Public-Record Offices ever published in any country. That third and Parliamentary edition is hitherto the last. The paper is, I believe, worth reprinting once again, even after the able labours in the same field, of Messrs. Ernest C. Thomas and H. R. Tedder (to be mentioned hereinafter more specifically); but the needful additions and corrections, requisite in 1885, would so largely increase its bulk, that the prescribed limits of this book preclude the gratification of my desire. I the more regret that it is so, because the paper referred to led to a long and somewhat caustic literary and statistical controversy, in the columns of a journal known to literary readers throughout the world—*The [London] Athenæum*. The present writer gave a public pledge in its columns to reprint his much-controverted labours, and to establish their substantial and essential accuracy. He did more, for he pledged himself also to shew that such alleged errors as may have been substantiated against him, were errors of *under-statement*, and therefore, in respect of the argument for removing the reproach from Britain of having been, in the middle of the nineteenth century, less well-provided with freely accessible Libraries, than were many other States, greatly her inferiors, not only commercially, socially, and politically, but inferiors too in Literature and Science, and in the state, generally, of Public Education, strengthened, instead of weakening, that contention, which alone—in 1850—gave public importance even to the merely numerical Statistics of Libraries.

A writer who chooses his own topic has no right to allege for deficiencies in its treatment excuse that there was "a lion in the path." It is his business to struggle with difficulties, to overcome them if he may, and to avoid talking about them. To every rule, however, there is a possible exception. "*Res augusta domi*" should be kept to a man's self, usually. But a published pledge (however unimportant save to a narrow circle of readers) needs a public performance, or a

public apology. Only circumstances of personal penury prevent the Writer from republishing the "Statistical View of Libraries in Europe and in America" at his own cost, in redemption of his promise. In 1881 it was in his contemplation so to do, for in that year he was in enjoyment from the University of Oxford, as Calendarer of the State Papers and Political Correspondence known as the "Carte MSS.," contained in the University's Library, of payments which then averaged three hundred guineas a year. The lamented death of Mr. Henry Octavius Coxe led to a change of "Bodley's Librarian." The appointment then made was eminently justified by the high attainments of Mr. Coxe's successor, but the change was to the writer disastrous. The new "Bodley's Librarian" appointed in 1882 new employés in various offices and functions, and dismissed the Writer from his Calendarer-ship, at the beginning of 1883; giving instantly to a new employé the duty of collating and arranging in chronological order the Writer's Calendar-slips previously written—a task requiring more than the labour of a year.

That sudden dismissal utterly deprived the Writer of any assured income whatever. After sixth months of privation and debt he received from Her Gracious Majesty a Literary Pension upon the Civil List of *eighty pounds a year*.¹

It was well known that he had been labouring for many years, at intervals, and for one year, 1876-77, wholly and exclusively, upon the book, a volume of which is now in the Reader's hands. And he had been asked as early as in the month of January, 1870, to apply to the then Prime Minister for a Civil List Pension, *i.e.*, *thirteen years* earlier. He refused then, as he refused in 1883, to make any such application; deeming that both the solace and the grace of a grant

¹ It dated from July, 1883. A copy of the List of the Pensions of the year, as presented to the House of Commons, is added, as an appendix to this Preface. [Omitted here. J. L. T.]

of that sort rested wholly on its being conferred, by the Crown, without solicitation on his part.

The change of circumstances made it, for very many months, an extremely doubtful problem, whether the deeply-cherished ambition of a quarter-of-a-century—that of removing from the “Memoirs of Libraries,” of 1859, some of their many blemishes and *seen* imperfections, and of leaving the labour of many toilsome years less unworthy of the social importance of its subject-matter,—must not (whatever the disappointment and regret of the writer) be finally given up.

It seems very possible that, at first impression, many Readers—glancing at my “Table of Contents,”—will incline to charge me with giving too much space to the Monastic Libraries of mediæval and of modern times. Indeed, upon occasion of the circulation of my first “Prospectus” of this new Edition, a well-known, and very able, provincial Journalist made himself a little facetious, at my expense, about the Libraries of the “Solitaries of Nitria,” in combination with the date “1884.” But if that critic were some day, during his vacation, to introduce himself into the Department of MSS. at our National Museum, Mr. Maunde Thompson could shew him, in a quarter-of-an-hour, very cogent proofs of the importance—not historical alone, but presently *practical*—of those far-off Collections of the much-contemned Anchorites of the Nitrian desert. Nor would it be absolutely needful for him to go even so far as to the British Museum. Almost any considerable bookseller could place in his hands the deeply interesting and pregnant volume of the late regretted Lord Zouche, entitled “Visits to the Monasteries of the Levant.” The evidence of that charming book would, in itself, suffice. And, were it even otherwise, I would not greatly sorrow to err, upon a theme like this, in company with Lord Zouche, and with my honoured friend of former days, Canon Cureton.

My own long-cherished conviction, indeed, of the illustrious part borne by Monks of mediæval and of

modern times, as in many other noble and arduous tasks of Christian Civilisation, so also in the erection, the furnishing, and the maintenance of those great Arsenals of Civilisation and of Christianisation—the Public Libraries of the World, is somewhat out of harmony with certain prevalent ideas. But I am none the less confident in the substantial truth of my opinion that to Monks we are, in the matter of Libraries, primarily and permanently indebted. And that fact is no discovery of mine. I began to learn the lesson forty-six years ago at the feet (so to speak) of the noble Montalembert. I conned it over again, a long time afterwards, at the feet of Dr. Maitland, for so many years the honoured Librarian at Lambeth Palace; and I rejoice to see that a much more recent French author, not so fond or so proud of Monasticism as was Montalembert—the accomplished and erudite M. Alfred Franklin—has but recently shewn, from MSS. preserved in the National Library of France, that it was to French Monks that the World was indebted for the first really “Free Public Library” ever known to have been opened. When I originally published the book now re-edited, I assigned that credit to a great French statesman, though of Italian birth,—namely, to Cardinal Mazarin. To Mazarin, next after Richelieu, the France of other and of (in some respects) better days, owed the consolidation of its illustrious Monarchy, and it was, in 1859, my belief that to him, also, France, and Europe, owed the grand distinction of establishing the first of the now many hundreds of “Free Libraries.” As an Ecclesiastic, no respect whatever is due to Mazarin; as a Statesman (his love of money excepted) very high respect is due. As a promoter of Learning and of Art, and as the free-handed disseminator of both, he stands out as prominently as he does in the long roll of the moulders of Modern Europe. And though the Mazarine Library cannot, after the recent researches of M. Alfred Franklin, take rank as first “Free Library” of the world, it still ranges as a very early one. The activities

of its monastic predecessors were necessarily on a very humble scale. The monks had good will, but their means were small, and their "public" still smaller. The Mazarine Library, on the contrary, had a considerable sphere of activity at the very outset of its existence. It has now, in 1885, an enormous educational influence upon an important part of the youth of Paris. *Esto perpetua!* It is to the undying honour of our own Lancashire that to a Manchester merchant the distinction of founding the next, in order of time, of our subsisting Free Libraries is due.

The more the Reader does me the honour of studying those amongst the ensuing pages, and the authorities I employ for them, which relate to Monastic Libraries (the older as well as the more recent,—and on both classes I have spared neither research nor toil,) the more, I venture to think, he will be compelled to assent to Montalembert's saying:—"As to the 'Utility' of Monasticism—passing over, for the present, its Supreme Utility, supreme in the eyes of every Christian man, of Prayer; of the 'life hidden with God,'—let us come down to the lower 'utility' which alone is appreciated by those who habitually keep their eyes fixed on earth;—chained to the things that are transient, and to the things that bring lucre;—let us ask such men to point, in the long Annals of the World, to any body of men,—to any institution,—to any organisation whatever,—which, at any period, has rivalled, even approximately, those Monasteries that, for more than ten centuries, were the Schools, the Archives, the Libraries, [*some of them, it might have been added, the Museums,*]. . . . the Penitentiaries, the Hospitals, and the Public Gardens and Parks of Christian Society?"¹ I think that this true and fair statement will sufficiently justify the length—not in itself inordinate, or otherwise out of proportion (and for this assertion I have the express warrant of an "Edinburgh Reviewer,"² not likely to

¹ *Les Moines d'Occident*, Introd., cxxv. (Edit. of 1860).

² *Edinburgh Review* (1874), Article I.

be overweeningly fond of the works and ways of Monks,)—at which I have ventured to treat of Mediæval Libraries, and of their Founders.

In dealing—at much greater length, of course,—with the modern Libraries and Museums of London and of Oxford, I have used my best endeavours to bring the information down to the latest dates ; and have, as I believe, used the best authorities, in addition to the personal knowledge of nearly fifty years, taking the two cities together. My intimate knowledge of the Museums, Libraries, and Archives of London began (I almost dread to remember it) in 1835 ; my acquaintance with those of Oxford in 1850—although, for too many years next thereafter, it was but a very slight and incidental acquaintance.

The “ Library Returns ” of 1849-52, referred to above, contain, as respects several countries of Europe,—contain, that is, in the year 1885,—the *latest official* and general accounts of the progress, and condition, of many Foreign Libraries, which have been any where *published* (in any language) or in any form whatsoever.

Still, in the year 1885—no “ Book of Reference,” as yet published—in any language—gives systematic and annual information on that subject, and on the condition and progress of Museums and Archives,—educationally, so important, and so pregnant with social results. Inquiries, and Publicists have to seek it by a multitude of indirect channels. Partially, indeed, the excellent “ *Library Chronicle*,” so ably conducted by Mr. Ernest Thomas, and the “ *Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen*,” not less ably managed by Dr. O. Hartwig and his staff of learned collaborators, contribute, from time to time, very important instalments of such information. The search for it is, nevertheless, still attended by much, and by quite needless, difficulty. When the searcher is, as in the writer’s case, a very poor man, the difficulty is increased tenfold.

In relation to matters of mere “ Trade,” and occasionally to inventions, and discoveries bearing upon

Trade, the Foreign Office it is well known, systematically confers inestimable benefit on the Nation, by instituting and by publishing periodical reports from our Secretaries of Legation. Is the present writer guilty of an unreasonable presumption, if he expresses the hope that, some day or other, a public boon which has widely diffused accurate knowledge, year by year, about Trade and Trading Establishments, may be so enlarged as also to communicate, annually and regularly, knowledge about the progress and present state, for the time being, of Foreign Museums, Foreign Libraries, and Foreign Public Archives?

Meanwhile, the able authors (Mr. Ernest C. Thomas and Mr. H. R. Tedder) of the Article "Libraries," in the ninth edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* (now in course of publication), have done much towards the supply—so far as concerns Public Libraries, and up to the date of 1881,—of the deficiency of systematic *official* accounts, published annually. The statistical table printed at the end of that article is of eminent merit, and I avail myself thankfully of the new information it contains. More recently, the Library Association of the United Kingdom (which in so many ways has largely contributed to the increased efficiency of our Public Libraries, and has conspicuously promoted their interests,) has in a variety of forms, issued useful summaries of such Library Reports as have lately been printed, as well as much like information from other and original sources. To all of these I have likewise to acknowledge much indebtedness in the preparation of the volume now submitted, as well to future *purchasers*, as to my esteemed Subscribers, of 1883 and 1884.

For, although the announced intention of the writer that his new volumes should not become—in the ordinary sense of the phrase—a "Trade-book" is strictly adhered to, it came to be inevitable that the impression should extend to 500 copies, in order to cover the actual outlay, as well in preliminary expenses, as in paper and print. The Subscribers are still, in

1885, under 200 in number. The remainder of the impression will therefore be offered to purchasers, but only upon the Author's account and behalf.

It has also been found necessary, in order to keep within the limits announced in the Prospectus of this work, to deal with part of the wide subject,—more especially in the Mediæval Section above referred to—by way of typical and representative *examples* of the more eminent Libraries and Museums of each successive age, instead of attempting an exhaustive account of all that attained, at one time or other, to any conspicuous rank. This modification of the original plan, whilst somewhat abridging the text of the book, has necessarily increased, in a measure, the extent of the “General Introduction” prefixed thereto.

Of many and great obligations (other than those already noticed) which have been conferred on the writer, in the course of his labour, grateful acknowledgment will (D.V.) be made thereafter.

Edward Edwards.

Sea-View, Niton,

Queen's Accession-Day, 1885.

From Edwards, Edward. *Memoirs of libraries, and of archives*
Second edition, 1901, pp. vii-xxii.

CHAPTER VIII

RICHARD GARNETT (1835-1906)

THE above was the elder son of Richard Garnett (1789-1850), Assistant Keeper of Printed Books at the British Museum, and was born at Lichfield on February 27, 1835. He was a brilliant linguist and student of foreign literature, so that he was eminently qualified for his career at the British Museum which he entered in 1851. Garnett was chiefly concerned with cataloguing, and when the printing of the general catalogue was begun in 1881, he retired from his position as Assistant Keeper of Printed Books and Superintendent of the Reading Room to devote his time entirely to seeing the catalogue through the press. In 1890 he was appointed Keeper of Printed Books, retiring nine years later, after which Garnett turned to literature, to which subject he made many notable contributions.

In 1883 the University of Edinburgh conferred the honorary degree of LL.D. upon Garnett, and he was created C.B. in 1895. Dr. Garnett was an original member of the Library Association, serving on the Council for several years until 1893, when he was elected President. His contributions to library literature are numerous, many of them referring to the activities of the British Museum, and he was responsible for the idea of the sliding press, which greatly eased the storage situation in that institution. Garnett died on April 13, 1906, and his wide scholarship and keen interest in librarianship were sorely missed in the profession he had graced with such distinction.¹

¹ See *Library Association Record*, 1906, pp. 201-3.

GARNETT ON THE SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION OF BOOKS
AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

The classification of a great library is equivalent to a classification of human knowledge, and may, if men please, become the standard or symbol of conflicting schools of thought. It might, for example, be plausibly maintained that knowledge, and therefore the library, should begin with the definition of man's relation to the unseen powers around him—that is, with Natural Theology. Or with man himself as the unit of all things human—that is, with Anthropology. Or, on Nature's own pattern, with the most rudimentary forms of existence. Hence, as we heard yesterday from the distinguished gentleman who here represents the fifth part of the world, the reading-room library at Melbourne begins with works on the subject of Sponges. Fortunately for the neutral bibliographer, there exists a book which not only holds in civilized countries a place unique among books, but which has further established its claim to precedence by the practical test of being the first to get itself printed. The Museum classification accordingly begins with the Bible, and I venture to express the opinion that every sound classification will do the same.

When the next question emerges, how to arrange the Bible itself, we alight at once upon a few simple principles, which, with the necessary modifications, will prove applicable throughout. It is obvious that entire Bibles should precede parts of Bibles; that originals should precede translations; the more ancient originals the more recent; and Bibles in both the original tongues those in one only. We thus obtain the following arrangement at starting: Polyglots, Hebrew Bibles, Greek Bibles. It is equally apparent that Greek cannot be fitly succeeded by any tongue but Latin; that Latin is most naturally followed by its modern derivatives; that these draw after them the other European languages in due order; the Slavonic forming a link with

the Oriental, which in their turn usher in the African, American, and Polynesian.

Concordances, consisting of the words of the Bible detached from their context, form a convenient link with Commentaries. The latter fall into two principal sections, according as they relate to Scripture in its entirety or to some particular part. In arranging the former, the erudite labours of scholars are, as far as possible, kept apart from the popular illustrative literature of modern days. The order of commentaries on separate books must, of course, correspond with that of the books themselves in the canon of the Bible. . . .

Divine Law is evidently most fitly succeeded by Human Law, or Jurisprudence. The fulness with which the preceding section has been treated will enable me to pass very cursorily over this and its successors. I may be pardoned, however, one remark suggested by the introduction of a new division—that in the classification of a library it should be considered whether the scope of the collection is special or general. In arranging a mere collection of Law Books it would be proper to commence with works treating of the general principles of Jurisprudence. In arranging a great library, regard must be had to the harmonious connexion of the parts, and accordingly the Museum arrangement commences with Ecclesiastical Law as the natural sequel of Theology. Bulls, Councils, Canon-Law and Modern Church-Law introduce the great section of Roman Law. Oriental Law follows, the Laws of the Continental Nations succeed in the order previously explained, and thus room is only found for General Jurisprudence at a comparatively late period, at the beginning of the numeral series 6000. It brings after it such minor subjects as Prison-Discipline and Forensic Medicine. The remaining space of the section is occupied by the Law of the English-speaking nations, which requires most minute subdivision.

Next to Divinity and Law, the third rank among the pursuits of the human mind was anciently assigned to

Medicine. We have learned to recognise that Medicine, however practically important, ranks scientifically only as a department of Biology. The next section, accordingly, commences with general Natural History, continuing through the natural kingdoms of Botany, Geology and Zoology, including Veterinary Surgery, with their appropriate sub-divisions, and then embracing Medicine—first in its general aspect, as medical principle and practice; then in its great leading divisions of Physiology, Pathology, Therapeutics, etc.; again, as Special Pathology; finally, in such comparative minutiae as professional controversies and bills of mortality. The divisions of Art—the next class—are simple and obvious. They may be enumerated as Archæology, Costumes, Numismatics, Architecture, Painting, Sculpture, first as treated collectively, and then as treated separately; and, finally, Music. Fine Art is succeeded by Useful Art, and the interval bridged over by Field-Sports, Games of Chance, and Games of Skill. No sub-division of the Useful Arts has been attempted beyond the separation of Cookery and Domestic Economy from the rest, and the addition of two special sections, one for the catalogues of industrial exhibitions, the other for the voluminous and important publications of the South Kensington Museum.

The extensive and miscellaneous division which succeeds may, perhaps, best be defined under the head of Philosophy, alike in its scientific principles and in its application to human life. Commencing with Political Philosophy, or the Science of Government, it runs rapidly through the politics of the various nations, in the geographical order previously detailed, passes into Political Economy, with the allied subjects of Finance, Commerce, and Social Science; thence into Education, and, by the minor morals so intimately allied with the latter subject, into Ethics, including works on the condition of Woman, Peace, Temperance and similar topics. Speculative Philosophy succeeds, introducing Mathematics, on which hangs the great department of

Applied Mathematics, including all physical sciences except the biological. The various branches are carefully discriminated, and room is found among them for the so-called Occult Sciences, and for Military and Naval matters, the series appropriately concluding with Chemistry, or the science which aims at the resolution of all matters into its original elements. The remaining sections, though most important and extensive, are very simple in arrangement, and may be dismissed very briefly. They are: History; Geography, with Voyages and Topography; Biography; Poetry and the Drama; Belles Lettres, including Fiction; and Philology. The arrangement is invariably the same: collected works on each subject being placed first, and a geographical order being adopted for the rest when the conditions of the case allow. Genealogy is regarded as an appendix to History; Letters to Biography; Elocution with Literary Criticism and Bibliography, to Poetry and the Dramatic Art. The class of Belles Lettres is headed by Libraries and Cyclopædias. . . .

Such is, in its main features, the system of bookpress arrangement which I have undertaken to describe. I have no fear but that it will be pronounced in essentials logical and philosophical. It has undoubtedly proved eminently convenient in practice. That it should be open to revision on some points is inevitable from the nature of things, and from two circumstances more especially—its gradual development as subject after subject was added to the library, and the degree in which it represents the idiosyncrasy of a single mind. Some minor oversights must be admitted. Geology, for example, should unquestionably have preceded Botany. I venture more extensive criticisms with hesitation, yet I cannot help remarking that I perceive no valid reason for the severance of so manifest a branch of History as Biography from the parent stem by the intrusion of the entire department of Geography; while it appears to me that the Useful Arts would have formed, through Domestic Economy, a more natural sequel to Medicine

than Fine Art, and in arranging the latter department I should have assigned the last instead of the first place to Archæology and its allied subjects. Forensic Medicine might also have been conveniently placed at the end of Law, to connect that subject with Natural Science. I should further feel much inclined to form a class for Encyclopædias immediately after Philology; both because dictionaries of general knowledge seem legitimate successors to dictionaries of languages, and that the end of the classification might be answerable in dignity to the beginning. I am aware how much room for diversity of opinion may exist on these and similar points. On a more serious defect there can be no difference of opinion, but it is a defect inherent in all finite things. In an ideal classification by book-press one separate press, at least, would be provided for each subject, however minute. But an ideal library would also have room for each sub-division. We cannot have the ideal classification without the ideal library, and although I hazard nothing in saying that, thanks to the genius of the designer, Sir Anthony Panizzi, economy of space in the new buildings of the Museum has been carried to the utmost extent conceivable, space is still insufficient to provide a distinct niche for every well-marked division of a subject. Upwards of five hundred such sub-divisions are provided for; nevertheless this large number is not exhaustive. Without such an exhaustive distribution, the actual classification on the shelves, which is all I have undertaken to describe here, can never be conterminous with the ideal classification of the study.

Extracts from Garnett, Richard. On the system of classifying books on the shelves followed at the British Museum. *Transactions and Proceedings of the Conference of Librarians held in London; October, 1877, [etc.], 1878*, pp. 108-114.

CHAPTER IX

CHARLES AMMI CUTTER (1837-1903)

It can truthfully be said of Charles Ammi Cutter that he was born to be a librarian. Although originally intended for the ministry, but never ordained, his intense love of books and his remarkable organizing ability drew him during his early student days towards the career of which he made such a success.

Cutter was born on March 14, 1837, at Boston, and was educated at Harvard. The Divinity School of the University acquired the library of Professor Lücke in 1856, and Cutter and Charles Noyes catalogued the collection, an early experience that profited Cutter in a subject which he made particularly his own. In 1860 he became assistant to Dr. Ezra Abbot, the head cataloguer, and the two compiled author and classified catalogues on cards, probably the first public card catalogue in America. At the same time Cutter was special assistant at Boston Public Library, and became Librarian of Boston Athenæum in 1869, which position he held until 1893.

Cutter's *Rules for a dictionary catalog* first appeared in 1876 as Part II of the United States report on *Public Libraries in the United States*, and it has been said that the modern dictionary catalogue is a monument to Charles Ammi Cutter. His *Rules* were the result of wide experience gained chiefly during his preparation of the printed catalogue of the Boston Athenæum published between 1874 and 1882 in five volumes. Classification had also received his attention and in 1877 he had begun the rearrangement of the Boston Athenæum by his *Expansive Classification*. The first six sections

of this were published between 1891 and 1893,¹ but the seventh was left unfinished at his death. The scheme is known as "expansive" because the sections are intended for libraries of successive sizes, and it is still of great interest. Cutter also compiled the author tables, which with Miss Kate Sanborn, he developed into the Cutter-Sanborn Table.

In 1894 Cutter went to the Forbes Library, Northampton, Mass., a new foundation, where he was given a free hand to create a library. He visited Europe collecting books, pictures and music, and succeeded in amassing a collection that was widely used by students, pupils and children, and loaned books to "anyone of good repute anywhere." Cutter accomplished valuable work for the American Library Association, especially for the Cataloguing Section, as a member of the Publication Committee, and as Chairman of the Co-operative Committee. He was President of the Association in 1888 and 1889, representing the Association at the International Conferences held in London in 1877 and 1897. Cutter was first President of the Massachusetts Library Club, and also of the Western Massachusetts Library Club, which he founded.

Most of Cutter's time appears to have been devoted to cataloguing, a subject in which he excelled on account of his thoroughness and accuracy, and it is for his work in connection with cataloguing and classification that his name will endure among librarians.

REFERENCE

Cutter, William Parker. *Charles Ammi Cutter*, Chicago, 1931. (American Library Pioneers, III.) [2 portraits, one of which is reproduced as Plate 4, by kind permission of the American Library Association.]

¹ First published in outline in *Library Journal*, 1879, IV, pp. 234-43.

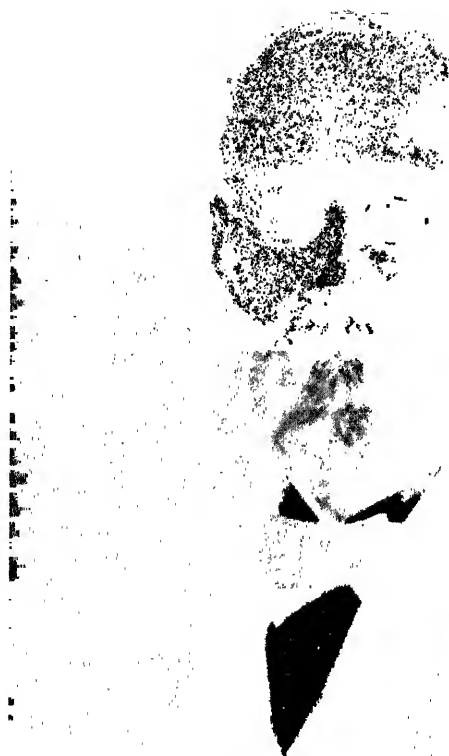


PLATE 4
CHARLES AMMI CUTTER (1837-1903)
(By kind permission of the American Library Association)

CUTTER'S PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION OF HIS RULES
FOR A DICTIONARY CATALOG¹

On seeing the great success of the Library of Congress cataloging, I doubted whether it was worth while to prepare and issue this fourth edition of my Rules ; but I reflected that it would be a considerable time before all libraries would use the cards of that library, and a long time before the Library of Congress could furnish cards for all books, long enough for the libraries to absorb another edition and use it up in that part of their cataloging which they must do themselves. Still I cannot help thinking that the golden age of cataloging is over, and that the difficulties and discussions which have furnished an innocent pleasure to so many will interest them no more. Another lost art. But it will be all the better for the pockets of the public, or rather it will be better for other parts of the service—the children's room and the information desk, perhaps.

In the last two years a great change has come upon the status of cataloging in the United States. The Library of Congress has begun furnishing its printed catalog cards on such liberal terms that any new library would be very foolish not to make its catalog mainly of them, and the older libraries find them a valuable assistance in the cataloging of their accessions, not so much because they are cheaper as because in the case of most libraries they are better than the library is likely to make for itself.

The difference between these rules and those adopted by the Library of Congress are of two classes. The first class of differences is in the trifles of punctuation, capitalization, the place of certain items on the cards, and the like. If one already has a catalog with a large number of cards, and merely inserts in it as many of the Library of Congress cards as possible, I see no reason for altering one's own style, either on the past accumulations or on the new cards that one is to write.

¹ This edition also includes the preface to the first edition, 1876. [J. L. T.]

The two kinds of cards can stand together in the drawers and the public will never notice the difference. But if one is commencing a new catalog, to be composed mainly of Library of Congress cards, I advise following the Library of Congress rules closely. It will save much trouble.

In the second class of differences those relating to place of entry of the card in the catalog, or of choice of heading, we must note that it is very easy to alter the entry of a Library of Congress card, as there is room enough above the heading on the printed card to write in the one preferred. A librarian who already has a large catalog will therefore find no difficulty in continuing his present heading and need change only if he thinks the Library of Congress practice better. Nevertheless, as it is some trouble to look for differences of practice, and there is always a chance of overlooking one and so getting different entries for similar books, it would be well to adopt the Library of Congress rules unless there is some decided reason against them. The librarian who is just commencing his catalog has still more reason for this course. In the matter of capitalization, on which the advisory committee give no advice, the course I recommend was decidedly favoured by the votes of the Catalog Section, at the meeting of the American Library Association at Magnolia in 1902. This course does not agree with the present practice at the Library of Congress.

The convenience of the public is always to be set before the ease of the cataloger. In most cases they coincide. A plain rule without exceptions is not only easy for us to carry out, but easy for the public to understand and work by. But strict consistency in a rule and uniformity in its application sometimes lead to practices which clash with the public's habitual way of looking at things. When these habits are general and deeply rooted, it is unwise for the cataloger to ignore them, even if they demand a sacrifice of system and simplicity.

The rules issued by the advisory committee of the American Library Association are according to the preface of the printed edition of these rules, expressly designed to be made for the use of a learned library. The old catalogs were not made for children, but the modern ones have to be, especially in a circulating library, for the children are the library's best clients. That the committee has always understood the public's views, estimated correctly its power of changing them, and drawn the line in the right place between a conservative regard for custom and a wish to lead the public toward a desirable simplicity and consistency is too much to assume, but I have at least always looked for the reasons on both sides.

The increase in the number of rules is due chiefly not to making new rules, but to taking out from the long notes many recommendations that were in effect rules, and are more easily referred to and found in their present place. The changes are largely for the sake of greater clearness and of better classification.

Cataloging is an art, not a science. No rules can take the place of experience and good judgement, but some of the results of experience may be best indicated by rules.

C. A. C.

Preface to *U.S. Bureau of Education. Special Report on public libraries. Part II. Rules for a dictionary catalog.* By C. A. Cutter. Fourth edition, rewritten, Washington, 1904.

CHAPTER X

SAMUEL SWETT GREEN (1837-1918)

DURING the latter half of the nineteenth century the United States of America could boast the possession of several prominent librarians who actively furthered the comparatively new public library movement. Justin Winsor, C. A. Cutter, Melvil Dewey, James L. Whitney, Fred. B. Perkins, together with Samuel Swett Green, all closely connected with the early years of the American Library Association, did much to encourage the development of librarianship in America, and their influence remains impressed in the annals of their profession.

Samuel Swett Green was born on February 20, 1837, at Worcester, Mass., his family having been long associated with that locality. He was educated at Cambridge and Harvard, but suffered from poor health in his early life, and did not graduate until 1864. Six years later Harvard conferred its Mastership of Arts on him. Although he had studied for the ministry, Green, at the age of 27 became book-keeper in the Mechanics' National Bank of Worcester, shortly to become teller there, but in 1867 he was elected one of the twelve trustees of the Worcester Public Library, these having been provided by the will of his uncle, Dr. Green. After four years as trustee, Samuel Swett Green became librarian of the Library, which had been founded in 1859 by the gift of 7,500 volumes from Dr. Green, and the offer of the Worcester Lyceum and Library Association to donate 4,350 volumes to begin a circulation department.

Green believed in personal contact between librarian and reader. He attended the annual conferences of

the American Library Association, actively supported national and international librarianship, visiting Europe in 1877, 1902, 1903, 1904 and 1906. Green wrote numerous articles for the *Library Journal*, published several catalogues of his Library, and greatly extended co-operation between school and library.

In 1891 Samuel Swett Green was elected President of the American Library Association, and on April 1 of that year a new library building for the Worcester Public Library was opened. He introduced the Dewey Decimal Classification for the Reference and Green Library, later organizing branch libraries, while in 1900 the Children's Department was opened. In 1872 Green had first opened the Library to the public on Sundays. He resigned in 1909 after thirty-eight years' service, and four years later published *The public library movement in the United States, 1853-1893. From 1876, reminiscences of the writer*, Boston, 1913, which is invaluable for reminiscences and anecdotes of personalities closely connected with librarianship. Selected passages from this book are printed below. Green died on December 8, 1918, but his influence on librarianship and his work at Worcester will long be remembered not only in the United States but also abroad.

REFERENCE

Shaw, Robert Kendall. *Samuel Swett Green*, Chicago, 1926. [2 portraits of S. S. Green; bibliography of his writings, pp. 83-6.]

GREEN ON THE PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES, 1853-1893

The years 1880 and 1881 were memorable in the annals of the libraries of Great Britain as well as those of other countries because of the start then made in printing the great author catalogue of the British

Museum. Work of this kind has long been urged in the interests of students and, owing to the existing and growing bulk of the manuscript catalogue, at that time filling more than 2,000 volumes, was earnestly called for to supply a much needed convenience, if not a practical necessity, in the administration of the library. The Museum began printing lists of its accessions, English and foreign, with the commencement of the year 1880. By the middle of the year 1881 the government had made an annual appropriation of sixteen hundred pounds with which to enable it to begin the publication of the great catalogue of books already bought and belonging to the printed books department. At that rate of expenditure it was calculated that four volumes could be issued yearly and that forty years would be required for printing the whole work. Circumstances favoured an earlier date of publication, the work was completed several years ago and a supplement has been begun.

It was in the years 1881 and 1882 that the introduction of the use of electric lighting in libraries came to be seriously considered. Richard Garnett of the British Museum is quoted in the *Library Journal* of June of the former year as saying: "Our electric light is a great success." This statement, of course, created great interest, especially in London, on account of the safety incident to the use of electricity and the absence of the heat which makes gas so disagreeable to men and so injurious to the bindings of books.

An editorial in the number of the *Journal* for March, 1882, states emphatically that the time has come to consider carefully the desirability of the substitution of electricity for other means of lighting in libraries. In the *Journal* for June of the same year it is stated that the Bibliothèque Royale of Brussels is to be lighted by electricity.

[pp. 99-100]

In 1881, Mr. Carnegie began his great work of founding and aiding libraries by announcing in the spring of that year his purpose of establishing a free library at Braddock for the benefit of his workmen. That declaration was soon followed by his first gift for a library to the city of Pittsburgh, \$250,000.

Early in 1882 Mr. Enoch Pratt, also, established and endowed a free circulating library for the people of Baltimore, putting up a fireproof building and inducing the city government to agree to pay \$50,000 a year for support of the library and its branches in consideration of the gift to the municipality of a sum of money which at 6 per cent. would yield that amount. The whole of Mr. Pratt's gift was more than \$1,000,000.

Mr. Poole, speaking for the editors of the "Index of Periodicals," expressed the hope at the conference in 1881 at Washington, as stated before, that the work would be published in the early part of 1883. At the conference in Cincinnati, May 24, 1882, such progress had been made that he was able to say: "I have the pleasure of stating that the manuscript is finished; that the printing is begun; and that bound copies of the completed work will be in the hands of the collaborators and the public before the close of the present year."

The second volume of the index catalogue of the library of the Surgeon-General's office was issued in 1881.

The printed catalogue of the Boston Athenæum was finished in 1882.

[pp. 102-3]

The most important event in the library life of this country in 1883 was the announcement at the meeting of the American Library Association in Buffalo that the trustees of Columbia College had under consideration

the question of the establishment in that institution of a school of library economy for giving instruction in practical bibliography and the use of books and for training by means of teachers, lecturers and practice work, persons desirous of fitting themselves to become assistants in libraries (including cataloguers), assistant librarians or even librarians, and to aid persons already working in libraries to obtain increased knowledge of the principles underlying the labors required in their occupation and to learn the best methods in vogue for making libraries as serviceable as possible.

The importance of the establishment of such a school had been brought to the attention of the trustees by Mr. Melvil Dewey who had recently been chosen librarian of the College, and by whom also a rough outline was presented to them of the general aims which should be kept in mind in the conduct of the proposed school.

After explaining the project to the members of the Association as well as could be done at its present early state, Mr. Dewey said that it seemed to him desirable that a committee should be appointed to present a resolution expressing the interest of the Association in the proposed experiment. A few librarians thought that the passage of such a resolution would be premature. More than one member expressed his confidence in the superiority of the training obtained by persons actually engaging in library work in good institutions. Some members thought that as there were doubts as to the subjects which could be taught by lectures, and uncertainty as to the procurement of suitable teachers and the demand for instruction by students, no action should be taken then but that the Association should await the development of the plan.

Still, the great body of members of the conference judged that however excellent present methods were of educating librarians, they did not meet the demand for library officers and that they might be improved ; so they were very glad to learn that a distinguished

institution like Columbia College was willing to give consideration to the new project. A committee was appointed "to consider what resolution, if any, could be presented for action." The next day it reported the resolution "that the Association desires to express its gratification that the trustees of Columbia College are considering the propriety of giving instruction in library work, and hope that the experiment may be tried."

[pp. 108-9]

A remarkable interest was manifested in New York City early in 1886 in having measures adopted to increase its free library facilities. January 27, three acts were introduced into the Assembly of the New York legislative: one for the erection, payment and maintenance of a building for a free public library in the City of New York, another to establish and incorporate a body corporate and politic by the name of the New York Public Library, and a third providing for the removal of the reservoir on Fifth Avenue to furnish a site for a new building. It was intended, it will be seen, by the persons engaged in the movement, to place the library building on the same lot of land afterwards selected for the occupancy of the present building of the New York Public Library.

The passage of these acts was opposed by the friends of the then existing New York Free Circulating Library, they contending that the wiser course to pursue was to start the library movement by establishing small libraries in different sections of the city. Persons holding those views advocated the passage of "an act" to encourage the growth of free public libraries and free circulating libraries in the cities of the state of New York. Such an act passed the legislature and was approved by the governor.

Later in the year, however, it was announced that the

late Samuel J. Tilden had made most liberal provision for the establishment of a free library and reading-rooms in the City of New York and it was believed that the legacy practically solved "the long-mooted question of a free public library of adequate proportions for New York." Protracted litigation followed, however, and, as is well known, only a portion of the bequest was secured for public purposes.

That, however, joined with the funds of the Astor and Lenox Libraries, which were united with the Tilden Trust, serves the giver's purpose in helping to support the great New York Public Library for which the City of New York has erected an immense building and with which the New York Free Circulating Library has been joined, its buildings having been supplemented and very largely increased in numbers by numerous other branch library buildings put up with money given by Mr. Carnegie.

[pp. 131-2]

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In the latter portion of 1890 and 1891, several state library associations were formed. As stated before, societies of this kind have now (1913) become quite general. A tabulation of reports from existing organizations made by Miss H. E. Green for the conference in October, 1891, showed that only nine state associations existed at the date of that meeting. The establishment of the first, that of New York, July 11, 1890, has already been noticed. This was followed by organizations in Iowa, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New Jersey in 1890, and in Wisconsin, Connecticut and Maine early in 1891. An association in Michigan was founded on September 1 of the latter year. September 26, a meeting was held at Topeka to consider the question of the formation of a society for the State of Kansas.

In Massachusetts, circulars were sent out October 22,

1890, to 480 libraries of 1,000 volumes or more. The organization was effected November 13.

[p. 216]

Early in 1892, earnest criticism was publicly made of the "excessive cost and questionable plans" of the building for the Public Library going up in Copley Square, Boston, and of the failure for a long period of the trustees of the library to appoint a librarian and the incompetence shown in the administration of the library. Specific statements of shortcomings were made in a series of carefully prepared letters from Charles C. Soule, published in the *Boston Herald*.

The building was generally recognized as sure to be architecturally very beautiful both without and within. The criticism of the plans had to do with the adaptability of the building for the practical uses for which it was being erected.

The Boston Public Library was the leader in the accelerated library movement which began in 1876, but had lost its position of leadership. . . .

The Public Library did not regain its prominence among the libraries of the country until Mr. Herbert Putnam was chosen librarian early in 1895. Mr. Putnam was appointed executive head of the institution February 5 of that year, and on March 15 the new building was opened for the delivery of books and carrying on the regular business routine of the library. Extensive and costly changes were soon made in the arrangement of the interior of the building to adapt it so far as might be to the convenience and efficiency of administration of the affairs of the library and Mr. Putnam began at once with good sense and fine executive ability to make changes in methods and introduce new kinds of work which had been found advantageous in the best managed libraries ; in fact bringing administration up to date and carrying it forward so successfully

as to bring the institution again into deserved prominence and make it worthy of study by persons interested in library advancement.

[pp. 252-3]

Extracts from Green, Samuel Swett. *The public library movement in the United States, 1853-1893. From 1876, reminiscences of the writer*, Boston, Boston Book Co., 1913.

CHAPTER XI

JOHN SHAW BILLINGS (1838-1913)

JOHN SHAW BILLINGS was born April 12, 1838, at Cotton township, Switzerland County, Indiana, graduating from Miami University in 1857. Three years later he took a medical degree at the Medical College of Ohio, and at the outbreak of the Civil War became an assistant surgeon in the United States Army. After a brilliant career in that capacity, on December 27, 1864, Billings was assigned to the Surgeon-General's Office at Washington, where he remained for thirty-one years. He took charge of the 2,253 books forming the Library there, which in 1868 had grown to 6,066 volumes. Three years later an author and subject catalogue of 13,000 volumes was prepared, followed by another of 25,000 volumes and 15,000 pamphlets in 1873.

Billings planned, accumulated, catalogued and arranged, until he had acquired the nucleus of the largest medical library in the world, now known as the Army Medical Library. He planned and organised the monumental dictionary catalogue of the collection, issuing a specimen *fasciculus* in 1876 before the first series of the *Index Catalogue* began publication in 1880. The first series of sixteen volumes was completed in 1895, and since that date it has continued publication as a model catalogue, and an invaluable tool for medical bibliographers.

With Dr. Robert Fletcher, Billings inaugurated the *Index Medicus* in 1879 as a monthly bibliography of current medical literature. In 1927 this was merged with the *Quarterly Cumulative Index* to become the *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus*.

In 1881 Billings addressed the International Medical Congress in London on "Our Medical Literature." Among the many honours conferred upon him were the degrees of LL.D. at Edinburgh (1884), D.C.L. at Oxford (1889), and M.D. at Dublin (1892).

In 1895 Billings retired from the Army Medical Library to accept the Chair of Hygiene and Bacteriology at the University of Pennsylvania, but in 1896 he became Director of the New York Public Library. He succeeded in welding together the existing facilities into one organised body for the supply of books to the public. He planned branch libraries, secured financial support for the upkeep of the system and left it expanding into the efficient public library system that it is to-day.

Billings was President of the American Library Association in 1902, and died eleven years later. He was an expert in sanitation, hygiene, hospital planning and vital statistics, but his greatest memorial is the Army Medical Library and its Catalogue.

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Lydenberg, Harry Miller. *John Shaw Billings, creator of the National Medical Library, and its catalogue ; first Director of the New York Public Library*, Chicago, 1924. (American Library Pioneers, I.) [Portrait and list of his books ; the portrait is reproduced as Plate 5, by kind permission of the American Library Association.]

BILLINGS ON THE ORIGIN OF THE INDEX CATALOGUE

This has happened in this wise : In the thesis just referred to¹ it was desirable to give the statistics of the

¹ His graduation dissertation. [J. L. T.]

results obtained from certain surgical operations as applied to the treatment of epilepsy. To find these data in their original and authentic form required the consulting of many books; and to get at these books I not only ransacked all the libraries, public and private, to which I could get access in Cincinnati, but for those volumes not found here (and these were the greater portion), search was made in Philadelphia, New York and elsewhere, to ascertain if they were in any accessible libraries in this country.

After about six months of this sort of work and correspondence, I became convinced of three things. The first was, that it involves a vast amount of time and labour to search through a thousand volumes of medical books and journals for items on a particular subject, and that the indexes of such books and journals cannot always be relied on as a guide to their contents. The second was, that there are, in existence somewhere, over 100,000 volumes of such medical books and journals, not counting pamphlets and reprints. And the third was, that while there was nowhere, in the world, a library which contained all medical literature, there was not in the United States any fairly good library, one in which a student might hope to find a large part of the literature relating to any medical subject, and that if one wished to do good bibliographical work to verify the references given by European medical writers, or to make reasonably sure that one had before him all that had been seen or done by previous observers or experimenters on a given subject, he must go to Europe and visit not merely one but several of the great capital cities in order to accomplish his desire.

It was this experience which led me when a favourable opportunity offered at the close of the war to try to establish, for the use of American physicians, a fairly complete medical library, and in connection with this to prepare a comprehensive catalogue and index which should spare medical teachers and writers the drudgery

of consulting ten thousand or more different indexes, or of turning over the leaves of as many volumes to find the dozen or so references of which they might be in search.

Cincinnati Lancet Clinic, 1888, N.S.XX., p. 297. Extract from, Garrison, Fielding H. *John Shaw Billings ; a memoir*, [etc.], 1915, pp. 15-16.

BILLINGS ON MEDICAL LIBRARIES IN THE UNITED STATES

Comparatively few persons have any idea of the amount of medical literature in existence, or of its proper use and true value, and the result is that the same ground is traversed over and over again. Cases are reported as unique and inexplicable which, when compared with accounts of others buried in obscure periodicals or collections of observations, fall into their proper place and both receive and give explanation. Old theories and hypotheses, evolved from the depths of the inner consciousness of men too zealous or too indolent to undergo the labor of examining the works of their predecessors, reappear, and are re-exploded with the regular periodicity of organic life ; and even when literary research is attempted, it is often either for controversial purposes, to serve the ends of prejudiced criticism, or to support a charge of plagiarism, or else for the purpose of obtaining a goodly array of foot-notes, which shall imply that the subject is exhausted, and give a flavor of erudition to the work. This state of things is by no means peculiar to medicine, but its literature is certainly an excellent illustration of the maxim "The thing which has been is that which shall be, and there is no new thing under the sun."

The record of the researches, experiences and speculations relating to medical science during the last four hundred years is contained in between two and three hundred thousand volumes and pamphlets ; and while the immense majority of these have little or nothing of what we call "practical value," yet there is no one of



PLATE 5
JOHN SHAW BILLINGS (1838-1913)
(By kind permission of the American Library Association)



them which would not be called for by some inquirer if he knew of its existence.

Hence, it is desirable, in this branch of literature, as in others, that in each country there should be at least one collection embracing everything that is too costly, too ephemeral, or of too little interest to be obtained and preserved in private libraries.

When the great work of Mr. Caxton, the History of Human Error, is written, the medical section will be among the most instructive and important, and also that for which it will be most difficult to obtain the data.

There is a number of valuable private medical libraries in this country of from four to ten thousand volumes each. Having been collected for the most part with reference to some special subject or department, they are the more valuable on that account. The majority of the medical schools also have libraries of greater or less value to the student.

The collections relating to medicine and the cognate sciences, which are available to the public and are of sufficient interest to require notice in this connection, are those of Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Cincinnati, and Washington. No one of these indeed approaches completeness, but each supplements the other to such an extent that it seldom happens that bibliographical inquiries cannot be answered by referring to them in succession.

[pp. 171-2]

The important part of a medical library, that which will give it character and value and for deficiency in which nothing can compensate, is its file of medical journals and transactions. The difficulty of obtaining and preserving these is in proportion to the importance of the matter. The majority of them are essentially ephemeral in character; small editions are published; they are rarely preserved with care, and even when attempts are made to preserve them by binding, it is

often, and indeed usually, without sufficient attention to the collation, so that in examining files of old journals it will be found that at least one-half lack a leaf, a signature, or a number. This fact causes much trouble and disappointment to the librarian, and must always be kept in view in the collection of this class of literature. In the attempt to make a complete collection of American medical journals for the library, it has been repeatedly found that what purported to be the volume or number wanting to complete a file was defective. It is probable that there is not a complete collection in existence at any one point, although there are two public and at least three private collections in this country which are very full, those of the library of the Surgeon-General's Office ; of the College of Physicians, of Philadelphia ; of Dr. Toner, of Washington ; of Dr. Hays, of Philadelphia and of Dr. Purple, of New York.

The rarest American medical journals are probably some of those printed in the West and South ; for instance, the Ohio Medical Repository (1826-'27) and the Confederate States Medical and Surgical Journal (1864-'65).

Another class of medical literature which is important to the librarian, and the value of which is usually underestimated, consists of medical theses and inaugural dissertations. To obtain complete series of these is even more difficult than to get journals, for the reason that they are more ephemeral, and because it is scarcely possible to ascertain what have been published, or when the series may be considered complete. For a few schools, lists have been published of the theses presented by their graduates, such as Paris and Edinburgh, but even for Edinburgh, the only catalogue of the theses which the writer has been able to obtain, does not show when the regular printing of all theses ceased. Callisen has been led into error in this way in his otherwise very complete Bibliographical Lexicon, in which he gives the titles of many theses which were

never printed, notably of the Universities of Pennsylvania and Transylvania. The value of these theses is fourfold. As material for the history of medicine they may be taken to represent the theories and teaching of the school ; they often contain reports of cases, or accounts of investigations made by the student under the direction of a professor, which are of much value, and they are necessary to medical biography, the more so as in most of the German universities a sketch of the life of the candidate is appended to the thesis. In addition to this, prior to the era of medical journalism, it was the custom for the president or one of the professors to add an introduction of ten or twelve pages to the dissertation, treating on some subject usually having no direct relation to the thesis, and forming the sort of paper which would now be sent to a medical journal. The number of these theses in existence is very great ; there are in the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office about 40,000.

[pp. 178-9]

Extracts from Billings, J. S. Medical libraries in the United States. *U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Education ; Public Libraries in the United States of America ; their history, condition, and management. Special report*, Washington, 1876, Chapter VI, pp. 171-182.

CHAPTER XII

HENRY BENJAMIN WHEATLEY (1838-1917)

It is a curious fact that H. B. Wheatley, the author of several volumes devoted to librarianship, was not himself a librarian, although keenly interested in books and literature. He was privately educated, became Clerk to the Royal Society 1861-1879, and was Assistant Secretary to the Society of Arts from 1879-1908. Henry Benjamin Wheatley held numerous other public appointments, the more important from our viewpoint being that of President of the Sette of Odd Volumes, 1909, and President of the Bibliographical Society from 1911 to 1916.

His publications include an excellent edition of Pepys' *Diary*, and another of Evelyn's *Diary*, Pepys in particular being his particular study, for he was President of the Samuel Pepys Club from 1903-1916. He was also keenly interested in Shakespeare, and was Chairman of the Council of the Shakespeare Association from 1914-1916.

Wheatley edited the attractive little *Book-Lover's Library*, contributing several volumes to the series, all of which remain of great interest to-day. His chief contributions to the literature of librarianship include *What is an index?*, 1878, *How to form a library*, 1886, *How to catalogue a library*, 1889, *How to make an index*, 1902, *Remarkable bindings in the British Museum*, 1889, and *Prices of books*, 1898. Wheatley died on April 30, 1917, but his interesting books remain to remind us of a remarkable character who contributed usefully to the literature of librarianship.

HENRY B. WHEATLEY ON HOW TO FORM A LIBRARY

It is greatly to the credit of the rich and busy man to spend his time and riches in the collection of a fine library, but still greater honour is due to the poor man who does not allow himself to be pulled down by his sordid surroundings. The once-famous small-coalman, Thomas Britton, furnishes a most remarkable instance of true greatness in a humble station, and one, moreover, which was fully recognized in his own day. He lived next door to St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, and although he gained his living by selling coals from door to door, many persons of the highest station were in the habit of attending the musical meetings held at his house. He was an excellent chemist as well as a good musician, and Thomas Hearne tells us that he left behind him "a valuable collection of musick mostly pricked by himself, which was sold upon his death for near an hundred pounds," "a considerable collection of musical instruments which was sold for fourscore pounds," "not to mention the excellent collection of printed books that he also left behind him, both of chemistry and musick. Besides these books that he left, he had some years before his death (1714) sold by auction a noble collection of books, most of them in the Rosicrucian faculty (of which he was a great admirer), whereof there is a printed catalogue extant, as there is of those that were sold after his death, which catalogue I have by me (by the gift of my very good friend Mr. Bagford), and have often looked over with no small surprize and wonder, and particularly for the great number of MSS. in the before-mentioned faculties that are specified in it."¹

Dr. Johnson, although a great reader, was not a collector of books. He was forced to possess many volumes while he was compiling his Dictionary, but when that great labour was completed, he no longer

¹ *Reliquiæ Hearnianæ*, by Bliss, 2nd edition, 1869, vol. ii, p. 14.

felt the want of them. Goldsmith, on the other hand, died possessed of a considerable number of books which he required, or had at some time required, for his studies.

[pp. 38-40]

Gibbon was a true collector, who loved his books, and he must have needed them greatly, working as he did at Lausanne away from public libraries. After his death the library was purchased by "Vathek" Beckford, but he kept it buried, and it was of no use to any one. Eventually it was sold by auction, a portion being bought for the Canton, and another portion going to America.¹ There was little in the man Gibbon to be enthusiastic about, but it is impossible for any true book lover not to delight in the thoroughness of the author of one of the noblest books ever written. The fine old house where the *Decline and Fall* was written and the noble library was stored still stands, and the traveller may stroll in the garden so beautifully described by Gibbon when he walked to the historical *berceau* and felt that his herculean labour was completed. His heart must be preternaturally dull which does not beat quicker as he walks on that ground. The thought of a visit some years ago forms one of the most vivid of the author's pleasures of memory.

[pp. 41-2]

Libraries may broadly be divided into Public and Private, and as private libraries will vary according to the special idiosyncrasies of their owners, so still more will public libraries vary in character according to the public they are intended for. The answer therefore to the question—How to form a Public Library?—must depend upon the character of the library which it

¹ For fuller details of Gibbon's library see *The library of Edward Gibbon; a catalogue of his books. With an introduction by Geoffrey Keynes, 1940.* [J. L. T.]

is proposed to form. Up to the period when free town libraries were first formed, collections of books were usually intended for students; but when the Public Libraries' Acts were passed, a great change took place, and libraries being formed for general readers, and largely with the object of fostering the habit of reading, an entirely new idea of libraries came into existence. The old idea of a library was that of a place where books that were wanted could be found, but the new idea is that of an educational establishment, where persons who know little or nothing of books can go to learn what to read. The new idea has naturally caused a number of points to be discussed which were never thought of before.

But even in Town Libraries there will be great differences. Thus in such places as Birmingham, Liverpool, and Manchester, the Free Libraries should be smaller British Museums, and in this spirit their founders have worked; but in smaller and less important towns a more modest object has to be kept in view, and the wants of readers, more than those of consulters of books, have to be considered.

[pp. 73-4]

The idea of a Child's Library is to a great extent modern, and it is not altogether clear that it is a good one, except in the case of those children who have no books of their own. It is far better that each child should have his own good books, which he can read over and over again, thus thoroughly mastering their contents.

It is a rather wide-spread notion that there is some sort of virtue in reading for reading's sake, although really a reading boy may be an idle boy. When a book is read, it should be well thought over before another is begun, for reading without thought generates no ideas.

One advantage of a Child's Library should be that

the reader is necessarily forced to be careful, so as to return the books uninjured. This is a very important point, for children should be taught from their earliest years to treat books well, and not to destroy them as they often do. We might go farther than this and say that children should be taught at school how to handle a book. It is really astonishing to see how few persons (not necessarily children) among those who have not grown up among books know how to handle them. It is positive torture to a man who loves books to see the way they are ordinarily treated. Of course it is not necessary to mention the crimes of wetting the fingers to turn over the leaves, or turning down pages to mark the place ; but those who ought to know better will turn a book over on its face at the place where they have left off reading, or will turn over pages so carelessly that they give a crease to each which will never come out.

For a healthy education it is probably best that a child should have the run of a library for adults (always provided that dangerous books are carefully excluded). A boy is much more likely to enjoy and find benefit from the books he selects himself than from those selected for him.

The circumstances of the child should be considered in the selection of books ; thus it is scarcely fair when children are working hard at school all day that they should be made to read so-called instructive books in the evening. They have earned the right to relaxation and should be allowed good novels. To some boys books of Travels and History are more acceptable than novels, but all children require some Fiction, and save in a few exceptional cases, their imaginations require to be cultivated.

[pp. 217-19]

Extracts from *How to form a library*. By H. B. Wheatley. Third edition, 1887. [The Book-Lover's Library.]

H. B. WHEATLEY ON HOW TO CATALOGUE A LIBRARY

It was formerly very much the fashion for those who knew little of the subject to speak as if nothing was easier than to make a catalogue. All you had to do was to have a sheet of paper and the book to be catalogued before you, and then to transfer the title to the paper. No previous knowledge was necessary. But those who were better acquainted with the difficulties that beset even the cataloguer, realized that Sheridan's joke about "easy writing being damned hard reading" was applicable to the work produced under these circumstances. Since the discussion on the British Museum Catalogue, and the consequent attention to the first principles of bibliography, these ignorant views are not so generally held, but still many erroneous opinions are abroad. One of these is that the clerical portion of the work of cataloguing or indexing is derogatory to a superior person, and therefore that he should have an inferior person to help him. The superior person dictates, and the inferior person copies down; and the result in practice is that endless blunders are produced, which might have been saved if one person had done the work.

Another vulgar error is that cataloguers form a guild, with secrets which they wish to keep from the public. This is a grievous mistake. The main object of the good cataloguer should be to make the consultation of his work easy. He knows the difficulties, and knows that rules must be made to overcome these difficulties; but he does not care to multiply these rules more than is absolutely necessary. The good cataloguer will try to put himself into the place of the intelligent consulter—that is, the person who brings ordinary intelligence to bear upon the catalogue, but has not, necessarily, any technical knowledge. Some persons seem to think that everything is to be brought down to the comprehension of the fool; but if by doing this we make it more difficult for the intelligent person,

the action is surely not politic. The consulter of a catalogue might at least take the trouble to understand the plan upon which it is compiled before using it.

[pp. 2-4]

The uses of a catalogue are something quite different. This is in the same house as the books it describes, and is merely a help to the finding of those books. It would be absurd to copy out long titles in a catalogue and be at the cost of printing them when the title itself in the book can be in our hands in a couple of minutes. Sufficient information only is required to help us to find the right book and the right edition. How far this should be given will be discussed in a later chapter. It is necessary for us, however, to remember that when the catalogue is printed and away from the library it becomes to some extent a bibliography, and therefore when a library contains rare or unique books it is usual, for love of the cause, to describe these fully, as if the catalogue was a bibliography. This is the more necessary because we are so deficient in good bibliographies. The ideal state, from which we are still far off, would be a complete and full bibliography of all literature, and then cataloguers could be less full in their descriptions, and reference might be made to the bibliography for further particulars. It is a standing disgrace to this country that we have no complete bibliography of English authors, much less of English literature generally.

[pp. 5-6]

Extracts from Wheatley, Henry B. *How to catalogue a library*, 1889.
[The Book-Lover's Library.]

CHAPTER XIII

WILLIAM HENRY KEARLEY WRIGHT (1844-1915)

AMONG the early members of the Library Association who rendered invaluable services to the young institution, the name of W. H. K. Wright remains prominent. His long, useful association with librarianship contributed to the development of the subject to a remarkable degree, for he presented numerous papers, and was ever ready to discuss those of his fellow librarians.

William Henry Kearley Wright was born in Plymouth on September 14, 1844, serving as Librarian of his native city from 1876 until his death on April 27, 1915. He was an original member of the Library Association, attending the first International Conference of Librarians in 1877, and reading the first paper. Wright served on the Council for a number of years, and was Vice-President on several occasions, attending the annual meeting for thirty-six consecutive years, in addition to the two International Conferences held in London.

Wright was the founder of the Ex-Libris Society, and was keenly interested in historical research, particularly in connection with his native Plymouth. His early contributions to gatherings of librarians, many of which are available in the *Transactions*, etc., and his continued interest in the development of the library movement ensure that his name will endure among the builders of modern librarianship as one who assisted at the laying of its foundations.¹

¹ *Library Association Record*, 17, 1915, p. 304.

WRIGHT ON THE BEST MEANS OF PROMOTING THE FREE
LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN SMALL TOWNS AND VILLAGES

During the short time I have held the office of public librarian, I have felt it my duty to make myself acquainted with certain questions closely concerning those institutions with which I have become connected. I have realized to a considerable degree the importance of the work in which we are all engaged ; and by personal visits to some of our principal libraries have obtained an insight into the working of those great higher-educational centres, as well as some idea of the main causes that have contributed to their prosperity.

Seeing, therefore, the extraordinary success which has attended the establishment and working of these institutions in the larger towns, has led me to look at the question in its relation to our small towns, which up to the present time have been in a measure shut out from a participation in the benefits of special legislation in this direction.

From a careful consideration of the subject, I could see no reason why the studious youth, the aspiring artisan, or the more advanced thinker of our small communities, should not possess an equal chance with the dwellers in large towns of obtaining literary food suited to their several capacities and requirements. . . .

Now comes *the* question : Is the Free Library movement *the* best means that can be adopted to supply the *need*, and, if so, in what way can it best be placed within the reach of all ?

It may be fairly assumed that the Free Library has up to the present time fulfilled the purpose of its projectors, and the secret of its success lies in the fact that the movement was not started so much in the interests of any particular class or section of the community, as by and for the whole community. It is open and free to all—knowing no caste, acknowledging no precedence of rank, birth, wealth or station ; making no stipulation as to a man's political or religious convictions.

We will assume therefore that the *need* which the Mechanics' Institute and Working Men's Club failed to supply, the Free Library has to a certain extent already provided.

Our large towns have the power in their own hands to establish and support these institutions—a power, moreover, conferred upon them by legislative enactments; and the Free Library, once established, is thenceforward recognized as a municipal and as a national institution.

Even in towns where the revenue is large, however, the amount realized under the provisions of the Act is insufficient to meet the growing demand, and to keep these institutions in a thorough state of efficiency. If therefore this difficulty of revenue be felt in the larger towns, how much more must it affect those towns of which I speak, where the means is altogether lacking.

Supposing the work to have commenced by securing the adoption of the Act, the rates are found to be so low that the sum realized annually would be quite inadequate to pay for the services of a librarian, to provide premises, furniture, books and periodicals. Unless, therefore, the promoters can see their way to realize a proper income to carry on their labours, and could by dint of great exertions raise enough money to start the scheme, what is the use of beginning? . . .

First. By the union of small towns around a central one for mutual help. Thus, in a district in which a large city or town has within a radius of twenty miles a number of small towns or villages, not one of which is wealthy enough to start and support an institution by itself, a central *depôt* might be established, with branches in the outlying districts, from which supplies could be drawn; a continued exchange and interchange of the best books might thus be obtainable, while Branch Reading Rooms might be supplied in a similar manner. . . .

My *second* proposition refers to the utilization of Board Schools as branch or general libraries. That .

this plan is practicable may be attested by the experience of my friend, Mr. James Yates, of the Leeds Libraries, where the Board Schools have been thus used for some time. I trust that gentleman will furnish the Conference with fuller information upon this very interesting point than can be gathered from the Annual Reports of the Leeds Libraries, interesting as those reports undoubtedly are.

My *third* and last proposition is by far the most important, and perhaps the most difficult of execution.

It is, that an effort should be made to secure *State aid* in the formation and for the support of free libraries and museums, and I trust that the action recently taken by the authorities at Birmingham, in concert with other towns, may be closely followed up and enlarged upon, until success is assured.

The State provides elementary schools, nay rather, it compels the ratepayers to establish schools. It uses compulsion towards the children themselves, but it also aids such schools from imperial funds according to the results of the teaching in those schools.

Now, seeing that the State does all this, might it not go a step farther, extending its aid to our libraries, which are, after all, but higher-class schools?

Would it be an extraordinary stretch of liberality if the State, after training the children for a few years in these elementary schools, were to supplement that training by assisting the progress of these higher educational establishments, when, by the force of circumstances, the children are compelled to leave those schools?

The taste for reading has been instilled into the young mind, and ought to be encouraged and developed; but what chance is there of such development, unless material is provided for it to feed upon?

I do not say that the State should entirely provide these institutions, but that it should aid the community in sustaining them by government grants, as in the case of our schools. . . .

Thus, if a penny rate were collected, the State might supplement with a similar sum, or at least one-half, the existing Act being duly altered to meet the requirements of each case.

I have within my recollection several towns where the movement languishes for lack of just such support, where a few earnest men are willing to spend their time and money to bring about the desired result ; and I also know of others in which the adoption of the Act has been opposed on the ground that the promoters could not give a clear idea as to *ways and means*. . . .

In conclusion, I would fain indulge the hope that this, the first Conference of Librarians held in this country, will give an impetus to the work ; being firmly persuaded that, ere another generation shall have passed away, the Free Library movement will have spread like a great tidal-wave over the whole country—every town, village, and hamlet participating in its advantages.

A few days since I witnessed several thousands of children from our Board Schools assembled to receive prizes for regular and punctual attendance. The prizes selected were *books*.

Here, thought I, were the evidences of what must be in the future. The seed was being sown ; pure literature was being disseminated, and the taste for it must spread : the rising generation, the generation now being educated in our Board Schools, bids fair to be a more reading generation than any which has preceded it : there is, therefore, all the more necessity for the present generation of workers to establish unfailing storehouses from which to draw.

The present is the time to prepare the way. There is much to be done for the future. The School Board system, which has struggled against ignorance and prejudice up to this moment, is prevailing at last, and will continue to prevail, and is laying a foundation upon which the Free Library must build.

It is well, therefore, that the materials should be made ready, in order that the grand superstructure of

national education in its external appliances, at least, may be complete.

Extracts from Wright, William H. K. On the best means of promoting the free library movement in small towns and villages. *Transactions and Proceedings of the Conference of Librarians held in London, October, 1877, [etc.], 1878*, pp. 22-28.

WRIGHT ON SPECIAL COLLECTIONS OF LOCAL BOOKS IN PROVINCIAL LIBRARIES

The design of the present paper is to advocate the special collection of books in provincial libraries—not according to subject, but according to locality. With due deference to the larger experience of those whom I address, I would endeavour to awaken in the minds of my brother provincial librarians a special interest in the collection of works relating to their several localities, urging them to encourage as much as lies in their power the formation of representative local libraries in connexion with the institutions over which they preside. My plea is that every provincial library which is designed to be the central or public one of its district, should, in addition to its recognized reference department, be the repository for works connected with the city, town, county, or district of which it is the centre, and that efforts should be made to collect therein all useful books, pamphlets, or manuscripts having any connection with the district, whether descriptive of, relating to, published in, or written by natives of, or sometime residents within the limits of such district. By this means, in course of time, a large and valuable collection of books would be made, and an interest awakened in local as well as general literature. In this way, too, local authors and publishers would be encouraged, a new impulse given to literary workers, and an additional inducement offered to the general public to frequent and use our public libraries for purposes of study and research.

Permit me, however, to observe, that I have no

intention to take credit to myself for any originality in this matter. The idea is not a novel one, as I shall endeavour hereafter to show. The only originality I can lay claim to is in the introduction of the matter to your notice on this occasion, in order, if possible, to induce those who have not yet devoted themselves to this special work to take it in hand at once, believing that they will find it amply remunerative, both in its general interest and practical results. Those who have already commenced the work will, I trust, pardon me if I urge them to renewed exertion, not only in the work itself, but in the equally useful and interesting task of letting their co-workers know what they are about. It would be well if we as members of this Association would be apprised of the particular direction in which our fellow labourers are engaged—provided that their work is of general utility, and likely to further the great aims of our organization. I feel assured that such knowledge would be welcomed by one and all, and that each librarian would appreciate the efforts being put forth by his brother workers, striving to aid in the accomplishment of the several objects engaged in. Some earnest workers there are doubtless among us, who are ready to say that they are quite satisfied still to pursue the even tenour of their way, and do their work, even such work as that now proposed, without talk or publicity. This may be so, but those who work for the public must be willing to forego their inclinations for the general good, and must not shrink from that necessary publicity which appears inseparable from their prominent positions. They must be content, in a word, to let others know what they have done, or what they are striving to accomplish. Hereafter I purpose to refer to some instances of special collections in provincial libraries which have come under my own observation, but I cannot refrain from remarking at this point that instances of special cataloguing of local books are few and incomplete. If a library is of any real value, it is worthy of a catalogue, and surely the

best means of making the existence of such special libraries known, is by having them duly and specifically catalogued, and wherever practicable their peculiarities and eccentricities set forth in detail.

Next to the necessity of a good catalogue is the desirability of the librarian having some special knowledge of the works under his charge, which may have been to a great extent collected by him. A librarian should endeavour to identify himself with his work, so as to become in course of time an authority upon matters relating to his particular locality. He should have a large acquaintance with the literature of his town or district—information not very difficult to acquire. As the curator of a museum is generally a man who has devoted himself to some particular scientific pursuit, and is considered to be an authority upon matters connected with his subject, so a librarian should acquire a knowledge of local books which would stand in him in good stead, and enable him to be of great help to his readers by directing their search for information in the proper channels. For my own part, I have found a little superficial knowledge of this kind of considerable service; how much more then would be the result of systematic application and research? Further, I have found the task of collecting special local books an exceedingly interesting one, and one which I hope to follow with increased satisfaction to myself and service to the public. . . .

In regard to the indiscriminate collection of books, we ought surely to follow the British Museum authorities, when they tell us that everything is collected that is issued from the English press, down to the most insignificant work on embroidery, juvenile tale, country magazine, or almanack of some obscure hamlet. Everything that is collected finds a place in the catalogue also, as well as in the library; the principle being that nothing is so insignificant but that it may one day be valuable to someone for reference, and by this means in one place a copy of everything so published will be

secured to future generations. The same principle might guide us in making our local collections without fear of becoming burdened with a very large mass of superfluous rubbish. Reference to the British Museum reminds me of another point in which we should do well to follow its leading if by any means practicable. It is well known that the British Museum and some other national institutions have long enjoyed, under the provisions of the Copyright Act, peculiar advantages over town libraries for obtaining copies of all works issued from the press of the United Kingdom. Although we in the provinces lack such a privilege, we might seek to do by moral suasion what the law is hardly likely to aid us in effecting—we might seek to interest local authors and publishers in the special work in which we are engaged to the extent of presenting to us for our shelves copies of their written or published works. Possibly such a course might prove serviceable to authors and publishers themselves by promoting the circulation of their volumes, especially were they included in the published catalogues of our special local departments. This, however, is a matter upon which I can touch but lightly, trusting that the passing hint may not be altogether lost sight of. If we in our provincial libraries could follow to some extent the course adopted and advocated by the authorities of the national libraries—seeking to gather within our building all the literature relating to the district we each represent—in course of time collections of great value and immense importance would be formed, an ever-increasing source of interest and field for research for the enterprising bibliographical student: remembering the maxim of the British Museum and “accepting everything, disdaining nothing.”

Extracts from Wright, William H. K. Special collections of local books in provincial libraries. *Transactions and Proceedings of the First Annual Meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, held at Oxford, October 1, 2, 3, 1878. [etc.], 1879, pp. 44-50.*

WRIGHT ON THE PUBLIC FREE LIBRARY AND THE BOARD
SCHOOL

At our meeting in London, I urged the expediency of bringing into closer relationship the free library and the board school as a means whereby the library system might be extended at comparatively little cost. Since that time the question has frequently occupied my thoughts, and as it appears to demand further consideration from our Association, I have ventured to bring it again before you. The occasion of our meeting in this important city—which may be called the birth-place and nursery of the free library movement, and where it has been so eminently successful—added to the fact that free town libraries and their administration form a prominent and special feature of our programme, leads me to hope that this subject may have your best and most patient attention, and that the librarians of our great communities may be willing to offer a word of advice to their brethren who in the less wealthy towns have difficulties to overcome of which they—more highly favoured—know comparatively nothing. In such a centre of wealth as Manchester, there can be but little, if any, difficulty in extending the working of its library system in every direction. That such is the case, the number of establishments in active work and their flourishing condition afford abundant testimony. But it is different in many other towns where, nevertheless, the free library is acknowledged to be a popular public institution. . . .

Our board schools have now become so much a part of our municipal system, they are so spread over every portion of our towns in the very districts in which it would be desirable to establish branch libraries and reading-rooms, that it appears to me as if the means for this work is ready to our hands. Provided a satisfactory arrangement could be made between the school board and the library committee—the one agreeing to

provide the room and gas ; the other, books, periodicals and attendance—much of the difficulty would be removed, or, at any rate, would be greatly diminished. Board schools and free libraries have much in common ; they are both established in accordance with special legislation, they are both supported by local rates, and they are certainly engaged in the same important work—the education and social welfare of the people. In this case, however, the funds are supplemented by Governmental grants ; in the other, the work has to be carried on without any such additional aid. There is also this great difference between the two organizations, that the income of the library is fixed, and cannot be materially increased, while that of the school board is virtually unlimited.

Now it appears to me not at all unreasonable to ask that the school board should be willing to co-operate with the library committee for such a desirable object—not by any special outlay of funds, but simply by utilizing the property already provided at the cost of the ratepayers, by permitting a more extended use of the school premises.

My suggestion is simply this,—that in populous but poor towns, and in fact wherever it is desired, and where the Public Libraries Acts have come into operation, and where there exists a well-arranged system of board schools, advantage should be taken of those establishments to provide, by the united action of the two governing bodies, a room in each district school to be used as an evening reading-room, with, if possible, a small lending library attached.

In this way would the work of the one institution follow that of the other : there would be mutual help, and I believe mutual advantage, resulting from the amalgamation. I have already proposed such a plan in my own town, and I trust ere long to see it carried out. The experience of those who have seen the working of such a project will be of value to their colleagues.

But this matter has still another aspect to which I shall briefly refer. The first I may call the business aspect of the scheme ; the second, the moral or social aspect.

It is that some mutual understanding or relationship between librarians and public school teachers should be brought about, with a view to exercising a reasonable amount of supervision over the reading of the children connected with both establishments. . . .

Reducing my ideas into something of a practical character, my proposition is as follows :—That in connexion with each district library, such as that I have proposed, there should be a small collection of books approved by both library and school authorities for the use of the children attending that school ; and that those children should not be allowed the run of the central or general library, except at the special request of parents or teachers. This arrangement might be supplemented in various ways to suit the particular circumstances of each case.

A pre-arranged plan such as this would tend to remove much of the difficulty now experienced by librarians on the question “ what the children should, or should not read ” ; and further, it would prevent that oft-repeated charge brought against our fraternity of disseminating worthless rubbish amongst our borrowers, and thereby doing much moral damage.

Under some particularly favourable circumstances a librarian has it in his power to direct the taste of those who come to him for books ; but in large libraries having an extensive circulation this is impossible, the demands upon his time and that of his assistants rendering such a course impracticable. I have myself endeavoured to meet the difficulty by establishing a juvenile section in my lending library ; but I find that it is one thing to say—“ *There are the books, read them,* ” and another to get borrowers, no matter how young, to take exactly what we might wish them to read. They prefer, as do most of us, to wander at will “ to fresh

WILLIAM HENRY KEARLEY WRIGHT (1844-1915) 127
woods and pastures new"—in fact to select for themselves, with or without judgment.

Extracts from Wright, William H. K. The Public Free Library and the Board School. *Transactions and Proceedings of the Second Annual Meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, held at Manchester, September 23, 24 and 25, 1879, [etc.]*, 1880, pp. 38-41.

CHAPTER XIV

EDWARD WILLIAMS BYRON NICHOLSON (1849-1912)

EDWARD W. B. NICHOLSON has frequently been acclaimed as founder of the Library Association, and that together with the fact that he was also Bodley's Librarian would render him worthy of remembrance by librarians, but he was also a devoted friend of librarianship in all its aspects throughout his career.

Nicholson was born at St. Helier, Jersey, on March 16, 1849, being educated at Llanrwst Grammar School, Liverpool College, and Tonbridge School before entering Trinity College, Oxford, in 1867. There he obtained his B.A. in 1871, three years later M.A., and became Librarian of the London Institution in 1873, after a brief period as a teacher. In 1882 he became Librarian of the Bodleian Library.

In January, 1877, Nicholson wrote a report on the Philadelphia Conference of Librarians held in October, 1876, suggesting that one should be held in London. *The Times* of February 16, 1877, also contained a note by him in the same strain, and he became secretary of a committee to organise the Conference, which was held at the London Institution from October 2 to 5, 1877. At this Conference it was decided to found the Library Association of the United Kingdom.

Nicholson was a prominent member of the Library Association until his appointment to the Bodleian, and his activities in those early days of the Association were invaluable. At the Bodleian he carried out drastic reorganisation, and his Staff Calendar is a monument of meticulous precision and ingenuity. He contributed



PLATE 6
EDWARD WILLIAMS BYRON NICHOLSON (1849-1912)
(By kind permission of Mrs. M. Hankey)

few articles to our professional literature, two dealing with buckram, but his influence was wide, and his death on March 17, 1912, occurred while he was still actively interested in the work he had so keenly supported.

NICHOLSON'S LETTER TO "THE TIMES"

A CONFERENCE OF LIBRARIANS

To The Editor of "The Times"

Sir,—Reviewing in a recent number of the "Academy" the proceedings of the Philadelphia Conference of Librarians, I suggested a similar meeting in England for the interchange of ideas upon all points of library management. As you reproduced most of the review in question, I trust you consider the subject important enough to allow my appealing in your columns for co-operation in realizing the suggestion.

I have written to the Principal Librarian of the British Museum, Mr. J. Winter Jones, asking whether, on receipt of a reasonable number of requisitions, he would consent to preside over such a Conference. In his reply he says:—

"Strenuous efforts are now being made, and made successfully, for the establishment of public libraries in large centres, and I think that such a Conference as you suggest might produce good practical results. Whether my presidency would be beneficial is a question upon which I cannot presume to offer an opinion; but should others think that my services in such a position might be useful, I shall be prepared to give them to the best of my ability."

I have also written to the Librarians of the Bodleian Library, Oxford, the Cambridge University Library, the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh—the largest in Scotland—and the Library of Trinity College, Dublin—the largest in Ireland—asking whether they would be

willing to act as Vice-presidents. I give extracts from their answers.

The Rev. H. O. Coxe, of the Bodleian, writes : " I am in your hands to use me as you like in forwarding the Conference you suggest. Only good can come of it."

Mr. Bradshaw of Cambridge writes : " I shall be very glad to take part in your Conference, and do what I can, and learn what I can ; but I had very much rather not be a Vice-President or anything of the kind."

Mr. Clark of Edinburgh writes : " I say at once that I concur very heartily with your suggestion as to a Conference of English Librarians—a subject that I have thought and spoken strongly about for some time past. I believe we have already lost a good deal from the want of united work. Use my name in any way you think best."

The Rev. Dr. Malet of Dublin writes : " I am sure the proposed Conference will prove to be a matter of great importance. I shall have much pleasure in co-operating in any way I can."

I now ask the rest of our profession whether they will join in promoting a Conference to be held under the auspices of these gentlemen. I would willingly call on all librarians in London and write to those of the largest provincial libraries, but official duties would prevent my doing this very quickly. If a sufficient number will do me the favour of writing to acquaint me with their assent, I propose to ask the London librarians to meet and elect a committee, which, corresponding with the provincial librarians and the officers-designate, should arrange all the details.

I hope the Conference might be held in London, where members would have the opportunity of inspecting, not only the largest library in the kingdom, but many others of very considerable size. Were such meetings to be of at all frequent occurrence, they might be held at other towns in turn.

The time should not be so near as to prevent the perfect organization of the Conference. Many of its members would, moreover, wish to master beforehand such works as Edwards' *Memoirs of Libraries*, and the great "Library Report," just published by the Government of the United States. Some would have papers to prepare for the Conference. The summer or early autumn would interfere with our holidays. Altogether, the end of autumn or beginning of winter seems the most fitting time. But these are points to be settled by the future committee. I only offer the above remarks to elicit the views of others.

I shall not occupy your space with the reasons why such a Conference would be most useful until I know that a single librarian disputes its utility. I fail to see how there can be two opinions on this head among those of us who have had any experience. Those who have not will, I trust, grant some weight to the judgement of men in the position of Mr. Winter Jones, Mr. Coxe, Mr. Bradshaw, Mr. Clark, and Dr. Malet.

I remain, Sir, faithfully yours,

EDWARD B. NICHOLSON.

London Institution, Feb. 14.

NICHOLSON ON THE CONSOLIDATION AND AMENDMENT OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACTS FOR ENGLAND

As secretary of the late Metropolitan Free Libraries Committee and of the present Metropolitan Free Libraries Association, I have seen and heard so much of the difficulties which the existing condition of these Acts throws in the way of their adoption—difficulties many of which are, I believe, unknown either to legislators or to librarians—that I have thought a statement of them with suggestions for their easy removal would be of interest, and might some day be of use.

Before remarking on the contents of the Acts, let me call attention to their number. There are no fewer

than four of them,—the Act of 1855, and the Amendment Acts of 1866, 1871 and 1877. They are all to be found in Mr. Mullin's very admirable and cheap little book: "Free Libraries and News-rooms: their formation and management"; but, though this should be in the hands of every public librarian and his committee, we cannot reasonably expect that it should be known in places where the Acts have not been adopted. Now it is of the utmost importance that Acts of which the adoption depends entirely on local initiative and a local vote should be in a form readily obtainable and understandable by the ordinary local man. The ordinary local man, however, has to procure four separate Acts, with a very fair chance of missing one of the four; or, if he does not miss an Act itself, of at least overlooking its provisions. The "Municipal Directory," for example, has an abstract of the Acts, drawn by a well-known barrister, who, although he has mentioned the existence of an Act of 1866, has nevertheless overlooked its provisions. The result is that he has stated the legal majority needed for the adoption of the Acts as upwards of two-thirds instead of upwards of one-half, a mistake which may have prevented many an alderman or town-councillor from moving their adoption. Nor is the alteration of the majority the only vitally important change which has been made in the Act of 1855. In the Act of 1866 leave is also given to the parishes adjoining a borough to combine with it for the purpose of adopting the Acts, while the very short Act of 1877 sets up a new mode of taking the votes, on the adoption of which the adoption of the Acts themselves is in many cases certain to depend. . . .

AMENDMENTS OF PRINCIPLE

Number of requisitionists.—The number of ratepayers' signatures needed for a requisition is only ten. This is far too low. If the adoption of the Acts is to remain

dependent upon a popular vote, it is grossly unfair that any ten ratepayers should be able to put their fellow-ratepayers to fresh trouble and expense once a year in cases where there is no probability of the Acts being adopted. I do not know that a small minority in favour of the adoption of the Acts ever have employed such tactics, but, as I have said before, Acts of Parliament ought to be framed so as to meet possibilities. And, if at least fifty ratepayers' signatures cannot be got, one of two things is certain—either there is no chance whatever of the Acts being adopted on a poll, or else the number of ratepayers is so small that a 1d. rate would not maintain a library in common decency.

Power of disestablishment.—I am equally in favour of giving the ratepayers a power to disestablish their library. One of the arguments most vigorously used against the adoption of the Acts is that, however great a failure the library might turn out, the ratepayers would be saddled with it for ever. I would certainly give them power to disestablish their library by a vote of three-fourths at intervals of five years. Such a provision would greatly assist the adoption of the Acts, and would do no kind of harm to libraries. In all libraries which do succeed the success is patent to every one, and they become an object of local pride even to those who do not use them. As a Liverpool man once said to me, "Liverpool would as soon think of tearing up its pavements and pulling down its gas-lamps as of doing away with its Free Library."

I believe that, on the contrary, such a provision would have the best possible effect on some libraries. However little reason any one of us may have for finding fault with his committee (and no one has less than myself), we know that library-committees are not always in intelligent sympathy with the needs of the people; and, however hardworking and enthusiastic we may be (I think I may say we are) as a body, we know that librarianship, like every other profession and employment, has its spiritless idlers. I cannot but

think that on such committees and such librarians the knowledge that the very existence of their libraries depended upon their efforts would exercise a most healthy influence. . . .

Corrupt practices.—A clause against corrupt practices should be added. I am not aware of any cases of bribery, but in June 1878, Hackney voters are said to have been treated at public-houses and brought to the poll in vans, while in some cases intimidation of the grossest kind was practised. A landlord, whose name I can give, avowed in the presence of some of the leading supporters of the Acts that he had threatened to raise his tenants' rent sixpence a week unless they voted against the Acts; and the compound-householders, who in that parish form a very decided majority of voters, are said to have polled an almost unanimous No.

It is, however, even more necessary to make penal the corrupt misrepresentation of the amount of the library-rate. It is to such misrepresentation that the Hackney vote was due. It was not enough to state that Mr. Mundella had at that time a Bill before Parliament to increase the rate; it was not enough to name the day on which he brought in this imaginary Bill; it was not enough to placard the streets with prophecies that the library-rate, like the School-Board rate, would rise to sixpence. No; even after a letter of denial from Mr. Mundella had been widely published, tens of thousands of handbills were printed and distributed up to the last minute of the poll, broadly telling the ignorant voter that the question on which he had to vote was whether or not he would pay another three-pence in the pound.

The Act of 1877 should be enforced at the requisitionists' option.—The Act of 1877, which allowed the votes of the rate-payers to be taken by voting papers left at and collected from each house, instead of by public meeting and subsequent poll, would, if it were put in force more often, be of the greatest service to the Free Libraries movement. The friends of that movement desire

nothing more than to have the question argued out in public, but, unhappily, they cannot always satisfy their desire. Each of the three meetings last year—at Hackney, Kensington, and Whitechapel—was attended by a mob of rowdies who refused to allow any speeches to be heard in favour of the adoption of the Acts. Whatever a man's position in his parish, however great and universally recognized his services to it, he was howled down if he advocated the adoption of the Acts. The result of such organized disturbance is, of course, to make it appear that the movement is hopelessly unpopular, to decide wavering voters against it, and to prevent lukewarm or timid voters from supporting it. Thus at Hackney a committee of 150 leading men of all politics and creeds polled only some four times their own number of votes, while at Whitechapel perhaps not more than one-fourth of the votes actually promised were given.

I urge, therefore, that the requisitionists themselves should be allowed to claim that the votes be taken under the Act of 1877; and I will add that, as far as one can judge from the single instance in which to my knowledge this mode of taking them has been adopted—namely, at Richmond—it secures a far more general expression of opinion; for, while at Hackney and Whitechapel only one-fifth of the rate-payers polled, nearly three-fifths of the Richmond ratepayers filled in their voting papers.

I fully grant that the voting paper system is capable of being misused, but the chief danger of such misuse comes from a certain class of opponents of the Acts, namely, the landlords of compound-householders. We have hitherto feared that many hostile landlords would go round to their tenants and see that they wrote "No" on their voting-paper. But, if we choose to face this risk, we ought to be allowed to claim that the decision of the ratepayers be taken in a way which will elicit the opinion of three out of five ratepayers, rather than a way which will elicit that of only one. . . .

Power to adopt the Acts to be given to Town Councils, Vestries and Boards of Guardians.—I maintain, however, that any new Act ought to go much further, and extend the power of adopting the Acts to Town Councils, Vestries and Boards of Guardians. It has long been in the power of these bodies to adopt the Baths and Washhouses Acts and to tax the ratepayers in respect of them, not merely to the amount of a penny in the pound, but to an amount altogether unlimited. Is Parliament not yet prepared to allow that a well-kept mind is as important both to the individual and to society as a well-kept skin? Surely Parliament, in passing the Elementary Education Act, has already allowed it? Or are we to consider that all the book-knowledge which is worth putting into us can be put in before the age of fourteen?

I do not, indeed, blame the framers of the original Act for making its adoption dependent on a popular vote. The working of the Act had yet to be tested; and in any case the opposition in the House was strong enough to make this concession prudent. But I do say that, after the Acts have been in force a quarter of a century, with a success which goes on increasing every year, the continuance of such a limitation is as great a slur on the reasonableness of our laws as it is an hindrance to the object for which those laws were enacted. . . .

Inspection of libraries.—Lastly: at least two inspectors of public libraries should be appointed, who should report yearly to Parliament on the administration and use of all libraries established under the Acts, and to all other libraries to which free admission is given, and which did not object to the inspection. It is obvious that such inspection is as much to be desired as the inspection of schools, whether by the ratepayer, the student or the librarian; and I am happy to think that we of the last class are so little influenced by any other feeling than a desire to serve the public good that, if such a proposal were now under the consideration of

Government, from no body of men would it receive more enthusiastic support than from the Library Association of the United Kingdom.

Extracts from Nicholson. Edward B. The consolidation and amendment of the Public Libraries Acts for England. *Transactions and Proceedings of the Second Annual Meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, held at Manchester, September 23, 24 and 25, 1879, [etc.]*, 1880, pp. 21-27.

CHAPTER XV

SIR WILLIAM OSLER (1849-1919)

AT regular intervals in the history of librarianship there have appeared personalities from other professions who have left their mark upon our calling. As collectors of large libraries, legislators, social workers, educationists, booksellers, or perhaps merely as book-lovers, they have contributed to the enhancement of book collecting and library administration as professional subjects. Several members of the medical profession have so honoured us, a few of them being mentioned in this volume, but probably the foremost friend of librarianship among medical men was Sir William Osler. As author, bibliographer, book collector, and particularly by his donations of books, he rendered invaluable service to libraries on both sides of the Atlantic. First and foremost, Sir William was an ardent booklover, who believed that every bibliographical item had a natural home, and it was his delight to purchase books solely for the purpose of presenting them to carefully selected libraries. He ransacked the bookshops of Europe periodically, and, particularly in his early years, his acquisitions frequently caused him to have "cobwebs in his pockets."

William Osler was born in 1849 at Bond Head, Canada, and after periods of study in Toronto and Montreal graduated at McGill University in 1872. For two years he pursued his medical studies in Europe, to return as Lecturer, and then Professor of Medicine at McGill, before occupying a similar position at the University of Pennsylvania in 1884. Five years later Osler went to the Johns Hopkins Medical School, but

in 1905 he left America to become Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford. Honorary degrees and other honours were bestowed upon him, and in 1911 William Osler was created a baronet. His clinical writings and teaching, his deep classical knowledge, and his charming bedside manner caused him to be described by Garrison as "the greatest physician of our time," but he also found time to assemble a remarkable collection of first editions and early classics of medicine and allied subjects. At his death this was bequeathed to the McGill University "for the use of students of the history of science and of medicine, without any other qualifications." A catalogue of the collection was published ten years after Osler's death, being carefully edited by W. W. Francis, R. H. Hill and A. Malloch. Entitled *Bibliotheca Osleriana; a catalogue of books illustrating the history of medicine and science collected, arranged, and annotated by Sir William Osler, Bt., and bequeathed to McGill University*, Oxford, 1929, it is probably the most readable catalogue ever published, and lists about 7,600 bound volumes. Osler carefully classified the entries under the following eight headings, Bibliotheca Prima (to contain fundamental contributions), Bibliotheca Secunda (for those of less importance), Bibliotheca Litteraria, Bibliotheca Historica, Bibliotheca Biographica, Bibliotheca Bibliographica, Incunabula, and Manuscripts. The introduction to the catalogue consists of an outline of Osler's book-collecting career, while the value of the entries is greatly enhanced by characteristic annotations in typical Oslerian style.

In 1913 Osler became President of the Bibliographical Society, his Presidential Address being published in *Incunabula medica* in 1923. He was also first President of the British Medical Library Association founded in 1909, but which unfortunately did not long survive.

During the Great War Sir William Osler did not spare himself in the cause of his country, but the death of his only son on active service in 1917 struck him a

blow from which he never quite recovered. On December 29, 1919, he departed this life, and his ashes have been deposited in McGill University among the books he had loved.

REFERENCE

Cushing, Harvey. *The life of Sir William Osler*, 2 vols., 1925. (One volume edition 1940.) [This is a brilliant study, and a model biography.]

OSLER ON BOOKS AND MEN

But when one considers the unending making of books, who does not sigh for the happy days of that thrice happy Sir William Browne whose pocket library sufficed for his life's needs; drawing from a Greek testament his divinity, from the aphorisms of Hippocrates his medicine, and from an Elzevir Horace his good sense and vivacity. There should be in connection with every library a corps of instructors in the art of reading, who would, as a labour of love, teach the young idea how to read. An old writer says that there are four sorts of readers: "Sponges which attract all without distinguishing; Howre-glasses which receive and powre out as fast; Bagges which only retain the dregges of the spices and let the wine escape, and Sives which retaine the best onely." A man wastes a great many years before he reaches the "sive" stage.

[pp. 210-11]

There is a third class of men in the profession to whom books are dearer than to teachers and practitioners—a small, a silent band, but in reality the leaven of the whole lump. The profane call them bibliomaniacs, and in truth they are at times irresponsible and do not always know the difference between *meum* and *tuum*.

. . . Loving books partly for their contents, partly for the sake of the authors, they not alone keep alive the sentiment of historical continuity in the profession, but they are the men who make possible such gatherings as the one we are enjoying this evening.¹ We need more men of their class, particularly in this country, where every one carries in his pocket the tape-measure of utility. Along two lines their work is valuable. By the historical method alone can many problems in medicine be approached profitably. For example, the student who dates his knowledge of tuberculosis from Koch may have a very correct, but he has a very incomplete, appreciation of the subject. Within a quarter of a century our libraries will have certain alcoves devoted to the historical consideration of the great diseases, which will give to the student that mental perspective which is so valuable an equipment in life. The past is a good nurse, as Lowell remarks, particularly for the weanlings of the fold.

'Tis man's worst deed
To let the things that have been, run to waste
And in the unmeaning Present sink the Past.

But in a more excellent way these *laudatores temporis acti* render a royal service. For each one of us to-day, as in Plato's time, there is a higher as well as a lower education. The very marrow and fatness of books may not suffice to save a man from becoming a poor, mean-spirited devil, without a spark of fine professional feeling, and without a thought above the sordid issues of the day. The men I speak of keep alive in us an interest in the great men of the past and not alone in their works, which they cherish, but in their lives, which they emulate. They would remind us continually that in the records of no other profession is there to be found so large a number of men who have combined intellectual pre-eminence with nobility of

¹ Taken from an address delivered at the Boston Medical Library, 1901.
[J. L. T.]

character. This higher education so much needed to-day is not given in the school, is not to be bought in the market place, but it has to be wrought out in each one of us for himself ; it is the silent influence of character on character and in no way more potently than in the contemplation of the lives of the great and good of the past, in no way more than in " the touch divine of noble natures gone."

[pp. 212-13]

OSLER'S BED-SIDE LIBRARY FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS¹

A liberal education may be had at a very slight cost of time and money. Well filled though the day be with appointed tasks, to make the best possible use of your one or your ten talents, rest not satisfied with this professional training, but try to get the education, if not of a scholar, at least of a gentleman. Before going to sleep read for half an hour, and in the morning have a book open on your dressing table. You will be surprised to find how much can be accomplished in the course of a year. I have put down a list of ten books which you may make close friends. There are many others ; studied carefully in your student days these will help in the inner education of which I speak. I. Old and New Testament. II. Shakespeare. III. Montaigne. IV. Plutarch's *Lives*. V. Marcus Aurelius. VI. Epicure. VII. *Religio Medici*.² VIII. Don Quixote. IX. Emerson. X. Oliver Wendell Holmes-Breakfast-Table Series.

[p. 453]

From Osler, Sir William. *Aequanimitas ; with other addresses to medical students, nurses and practitioners of medicine. . . . Reprinted from the third edition. Biographical note by Sir Walter Langdon-Brown. With a portrait*, 1939.

¹ Suitable for all students, as shown. [J. L. T.]

² By Sir Thomas Browne (1605-1682). [J. L. T.]

CHAPTER XVI

MELVIL DEWEY (1851-1931)

THE name "Dewey" is known to most users of public libraries, and to them it implies all too frequently the incomprehensible arrangement of the books on the shelves. That there existed a man bearing that name rarely occurs to them, and many librarians also are ignorant of the details of the life of the man whose name is a household word.

Melvil Dewey was born on December 10, 1851, at Adams Center, New York, and was then named Melville Louis Kossuth Dewey, although he appears to have drastically curtailed this at the earliest possible opportunity. At the age of 17 he became a teacher, and while studying at Amherst, which he entered in 1870, he continued to assist his father in his business. Dewey was assistant librarian at Amherst from 1874 to 1876, and as early as 1873 had completed his Decimal Classification Scheme, which was applied to the Library, and published in 1876 as *A classification and subject index for cataloging and arranging the books and pamphlets of a library*. It was then a slight booklet of 42 pages, with 1,000 placings in the schedules of the scheme. It was first applied to a large collection at Columbia College, where Dewey was appointed Chief Librarian on May 7, 1883. Here he established the School of Library Service four years later, but after disagreements with the trustees over the admission of women to the courses, Dewey transferred himself and the School to Albany, where he became State Librarian and Secretary to the Regent of the University of the State of New York. He resigned from these appoint-

ments in 1905, but it was by no means a retirement, and Dewey was active in the advancement of librarianship until his death.

Melvil Dewey was prominent among American librarians in the early days of public libraries. In 1876 he became head of the firm of Library Bureau, managing editor of the *American Library Journal* (founded in that year), and also founded the Metric Bureau and the Spelling Reform Association. He published his *Rules for author and classed catalogs as used in Columbia College Library* in 1888, and his *Library school card catalog rules* a year later.

In 1904 Dewey proposed that the American Library Association and the Library Association should collaborate in the preparation of an Anglo-American Cataloguing Code, which was published in 1908. He held several prominent positions, being elected first President of the Association of State Libraries in 1889, and the following year he founded the New York State Library Association. He planned and organised the Lake Placid Club, which has published successive editions of his Classification.

Melvil Dewey has probably influenced the development of librarianship more than any other single person. He did not spare himself in actively supporting the numerous organisations with which he was associated, and his death on December 26, 1931, occurred while he was still active on their behalf. His scheme of classification is now used in libraries throughout the world, and although subject to much criticism has not yet been superseded for practical purposes.

REFERENCES

Dawe, Grosvenor. *Melvil Dewey; seer, inspirer, doer, 1851-1931*, [etc.], Lake Placid Club, New York, 1932. [Bibliography, list of editions of his Classification, etc. Unfortunately it is written in Dewey's revised spelling.]

Rider, Fremont. *Melvil Dewey*, Chicago, 1944. (American Library Pioneers, VI.) [Portraits.]



PLATE 7
SIR WILLIAM OSLER (1849-1919)
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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION OF DEWEY'S
CLASSIFICATION

The plan of the following Classification and index was developed early in 1873. It was the result of several months' study of library economy as found in some hundreds of books and pamphlets, and in over fifty personal visits to various American libraries. In this study, the author became convinced that the usefulness of these libraries might be greatly increased without additional expenditure. Three years practical use of the system here explained, leads him to believe that it will accomplish this result; for with its aid, the catalogues, shelf lists, indexes, and cross-references essential to this increased usefulness, can be made more economically than by any other method which he has been able to find. The system was devised for cataloguing and indexing purposes, but it was found on trial to be equally valuable for numbering and arranging books and pamphlets on the shelves. . . .

In arranging books in the classification, as in filling out the scheme, practical usefulness has been esteemed the most important thing. The effort has been made to put each book under the subject to the student of which it would be most useful. The content or the real subject of which the book treats, and not the form or the accidental wording of the title, determines its place. Following this rule, a Philosophy of Art is put with Art, not with Philosophy; a History of Mathematics, with Mathematics, not with History, for the philosophy and history are simply the *form* which these books have taken. The true content or subject is Art, and Mathematics, and to the student of these subjects they are most useful. The predominant tendency or obvious purpose of the book, usually decides its class number at once; still many books treat of two or more different subjects, and in such cases it is assigned to the place

where it will be most useful, and underneath the class number are written the numbers of any other subjects on which it also treats. These *Cross References* are given both on the plate and the subject card as well as on the cross reference card. If a book treats of a majority of the sections of any division, it is given the Division number instead of the most important Section number with cross references. . . .

Thus all the books on any given subject are found standing together, and no additions or changes ever separate them. Not only are all the books on the subject sought, found together, but the most nearly allied subjects precede and follow, they in turn being preceded and followed by other allied subjects as far as practicable. Readers not having access to the shelves find the short titles arranged in the same order in the Shelf Catalogue, and the full titles, imprints, cross references, notes, etc., in the Subject Catalogue. The uncatalogued pamphlets treating of any subject bear the same class number and are arranged on the shelves immediately after the books of each section. . . .

The plan was adopted in the Amherst College Library in 1873, and the work of transferring the entire library to the new catalogue at once commenced. It was found entirely practicable to make the change gradually, as means allowed, without interfering in any appreciable degree with the circulation of the books. The three years' trial to which it has been there subjected has more than justified the claims of its friends, and it is now printed with the more confidence on this account. It has been kept in manuscript up to this time, in order that the many minor details might be subjected to actual trial and modified where improvement was possible. The labor involved in preparing the Classification and Index has been wholly beyond the appre-

ciation of any who have never attempted a similar task. Much valuable aid has been rendered by specialists in many departments, and nearly every member of the Faculty has given advice from time to time. . . .

In his varied reading, correspondence and conversation on the subject, the author doubtless received suggestions and gained ideas which it is now impossible for him to acknowledge. Perhaps the most fruitful source of ideas was the *Nuovo Sistema di Catalogo Bibliografico Generale* of Natale Battezzati, of Milan. Certainly he is indebted to this system adopted by the Italian publishers in 1871, though he has copied nothing from it. The plan of the St. Louis Public School Library, and that of the Apprentices' Library of New York, which in some respects resembles his own, were not seen till all the essential features were decided upon, though not given to the public. In filling the nine classes of the scheme the inverted Baconian arrangement of the St. Louis Library has been followed. The author has no desire to claim original invention for any part of his system where another has been before him; and would most gladly make specific acknowledgement of every aid and suggestion were it in his power to do so. With these general explanations and acknowledgements he submits the scheme, hoping it may prove as useful to others as it has to himself.

AMHERST COLLEGE LIBRARY,

June 10th, 1876.

Paragraphs from Preface (pp. 1-10), of *A classification and subject index for cataloguing and arranging the books and pamphlets of a library*. By Melvil Dewey. Amherst, Mass., 1876. [Printed with the permission of the Lake Placid Club Education Foundation, the copyright owner.]

CHAPTER XVII

SIR JOHN YOUNG WALKER MACALISTER (1856-1925)

SIR JOHN YOUNG WALKER MACALISTER has been described by Mr. E. A. Savage as "the best friend the Library Association has had so far," and his work in connection with librarianship was but one of his numerous activities. Endowed with remarkable foresight and resolution he not only originated brilliant ideas, but courageously saw them put into execution, frequently at no small personal cost and inconvenience. It is only possible to record his activities as a brief list, from which it may be difficult to appreciate the true value of his services, but medicine, the Library Association and librarianship in general will remain for ever grateful that such an amazing personality took so great an interest in their development.

John Y. W. MacAlister was born at Perth on May 10, 1856, and was educated at the High School, Liverpool. For three years he studied medicine at Edinburgh University, but ill-health compelled him to give up medicine as a profession, although he later became closely connected with it as a medical librarian. In 1878 MacAlister became Sub-Librarian of the Liverpool Library, and two years later Librarian of the Leeds Library. Here he catalogued and classified the collection, using his own scheme of classification. In 1887 he became Librarian of the newly founded Gladstone Library at the National Liberal Club, but on April 9 of the same year was elected Resident Librarian of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, then at 53, Berners Street, London. At that time numerous

medical societies existed in London in poor financial circumstances, and MacAlister worked for several years in an endeavour to amalgamate them into one strong body. In June, 1907, this was effected, and a large number of medical societies joined the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society to become the Royal Society of Medicine, which at its headquarters in Wimpole Street houses the largest medical library in Great Britain.

In 1889 MacAlister founded *The Library*, which after being the official organ of the Library Association, became that of the Bibliographical Society. From 1887 to 1897 he was Secretary of the Library Association, and it was largely due to his efforts that the 1892 Public Libraries Act was passed. In 1898 he was instrumental in obtaining the Royal Charter of Incorporation for the Library Association, and was President of the Association during the difficult period 1914-1919. He suggested the official Manual of Librarianship, several sections of which were published, and also assisted in founding the School of Librarianship at University College, London.

MacAlister was knighted in 1919 and he also received the Order of the British Empire. Unfortunately six years later, on December 1, 1925, he died after a long period of ill-health.

REFERENCE

Sir John Young Walker MacAlister ; a memorial for his family and friends, 1926. [Five portraits ; a collection of obituary notices, appreciations, etc.]

MACALISTER ON THE OSLER LIBRARY

The other day I was "assisting" at the unveiling of a fine cast of the famous "Hope Asklepios," which now provides a noble decoration for the principal reading room in the library of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Making the necessary arrangements and the time occupied by the ceremony made such a hole in official hours that I had to take home with me a larger batch of proof than usual, and, as frequently happens, the interest of the work made me forget time and space, and it was only in rising to rekindle a cold pipe that I discovered it was nearly 2 a.m., so I put aside my proofs, relit my pipe, and sat down for a little quiet thinking before going to bed.

A sudden ring of the telephone brought back memories of raids and night calls, but on going to the instrument I heard a voice that I thought familiar but could not identify. "You are wanted at once at the Osler Library. The committee has adjourned until you can come, and we are sending up one of the staff cars for you." I murmured something about the lateness of the hour, and said I should be ready. In a few minutes a haughty-looking chauffeur drove up, helped me in, put a magnificent fur rug over my knees, for the night was cold, and drove off in the direction of the Regent's Park. He stopped at a lodge gate which gave entrance to a large enclosure, and pulled up at the portico of a magnificent building which seemed strangely familiar, and yet I could not recall where or when I had seen it.

It was built in the form of a quadrangle, with a great open courtyard in the centre, in which was a noble marble statue. At first I thought I recognised it as the "Hope Asklepios," but going closer I was startled to observe that while in every other respect apparently a copy of the Asklepios, the face was that of our revered friend and teacher William Osler. Everything was so strange I did not at the time even think it odd that on gazing at his face, his characteristic smile, which we all love, was a *living* smile, and I could have sworn that one of those wonderful eyes solemnly winked at me.

I suddenly found by my side an elderly gentleman who introduced himself as the Bibliothecarius-in-chief, and with grave dignity welcomed me on my first visit

to the great institution of which he was proud to be the head, and proudest of all because it realised the ideals of that great benefactor Osler.

"And yet," he added, "the realisation of the scheme is in some respects entirely due to yourself, and I have been deputed by the committee to take you over the entire building and invite any criticisms you may have to make before the ceremonial opening."

It all seemed curiously puzzling, and yet somehow "all right," and I told him how delighted I was, but that if Osler were pleased, it was not likely I would be able to suggest any improvements.

He began by asking me to observe the stately Greek architecture, cleverly adapted in the matter of windows, lighting and ventilation to meet modern demands. He then led the way inside to a great circular entrance hall, lighted from the top of a lofty dome which reminded me of the Pantheon at Rome. There was only one light, at the top, which at first seemed too small for such a vast hall, and yet illuminated the whole space perfectly. I guessed the opening was covered in by glass as a concession to English weather, but it was so cleverly done that it seemed to be open, and my guide explained to me that at night the light was equally good, provided from outside by a powerful searchlight.

In the spaces between the corridors opening out of the central hall there were numerous marble statues, which my guide informed me had been provided by the greatest artists of all the civilised nations that had contributed in any way to the advancement of Medicine, and pointed out with particular pride the latest gift, which had been received from the King of Hedjaz, a noble image of Avicenna, the work of a young Arab sculptor, who, he assured me, would very soon be recognised as one of the greatest artists the world had ever known. To my surprise and delight I recognised effigies not only of the past, but of some of the present masters of Medicine. Of course Æsculapius, Hippocrates, Galen and Celsus were there; down the ages

with Harvey and the Hunters to Lister, Pasteur and, as my guide explained, by the special request of Osler, living men who had done most for the history of Medicine, such as Norman Moore, who was figured as presenting his monumental "History of St. Bartholomew's," D'Arcy Power, Raymond Crawford, Cumston, and the indefatigable Singer.

My guide, taking out his watch, remarked that we should just be in time for breakfast with the staff, and led the way to the refectory, which I found to be a noble room with a southern aspect, set out with long tables where many of the staff were already seated, and in spite of the tempting meal set before them, were already engaged either in earnest conversation or disputation, and my guide explained to me that the rule of the house was that the members of the staff, with himself, took their meals together, as in this way they could discuss questions and difficulties without trenching on the time devoted to their official duties. "An excellent plan," I said, "and I suppose you preside?" "No," he replied, "I just take my place here or there among the members of my staff, and I find it does not in any way interfere with discipline to be on the friendliest terms with even the humblest, and encourage them to bring all their difficulties before me. I often find that I get valuable suggestions from even the youngest. Now sit down," said he, "and 'partake' of a good breakfast." In spite of the shock I suffered at hearing him use the vile verb, I accepted his invitation. "For," said he, "you will want all your strength before the day is out if you are to see everything." (Later I discovered an explanation, if not an excuse, for my learned friend's language, for in the course of our talk I found he was a regular and diligent reader of the *Daily Mail*.) So I "partook" of a very excellent breakfast, and announced myself ready to follow him to the bitter end.

Leaving the refectory he led me downstairs to what he called the upper basement, the lower basement

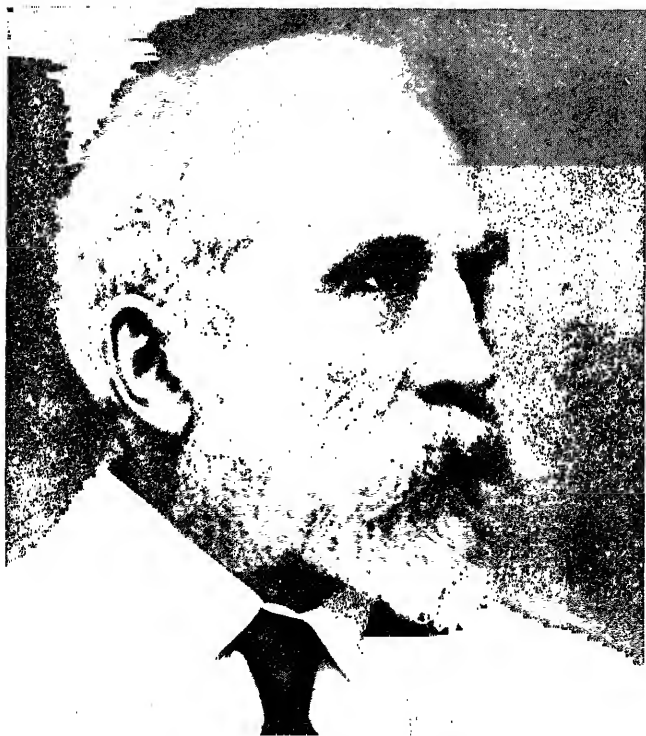


PLATE 8

SIR JOHN YOUNG WALKER MACALISTER (1856-1925)

(By kind permission of Sir Ian MacAlister)



being reserved for machinery. "Machinery!" I said; "what do you want with machinery in a library?" "We have our engines for various purposes, for working printing presses, lifts, and anything else requiring power," and with that he led me into the compositors' room, which, though in the basement, was a large, well-lighted and well-ventilated apartment, where I found compositors busy filling up forms from written copies of catalogue slips.

"We find it much cheaper to print our catalogue cards, and an economy of time for our readers and searchers. In the usual card catalogues there is one principal entry, which contains the full description of a book, while the numerous cross-references are limited to 'See so and so.' We print as many copies of the principal entry as we think necessary, and then write a short heading on each of the cards to be distributed through the rest of the alphabet for cross-references, so that the searcher, on finding any cross-reference, gets all necessary details. Had these cards to be sent out to a printer much time would be lost, whereas by the 'Osler' method an hour after a book is received cards with full descriptions can be placed in our catalogue. When the cards for the day are printed off, *clichés* of them are made and stored away until the time comes when they can be used for printing a great General Catalogue."

In the next apartment were the printing machines, and I asked whether their noise did not disturb the readers upstairs. "No," said my guide; "we have safeguarded against that, for the architects have interposed double floors packed so that not the slightest sound is heard but occasionally a slight vibration."

From there he led me to the bindery. "No book ever leaves the house except to go to a reader. 'A stitch in time saves nine' is nowhere so true as in a library, where a loose leaf or cover neglected often means the destruction of the book, so whenever a book shows the slightest signs of disrepair, it is sent down here

at once and dealt with by skilled workmen, who know how to repair a book without spoiling it. In the next room the actual binding work is done by men specially trained in binding books *for library use*—a very different art from that of the ordinary trade binder. I should allow no one to pass as a qualified librarian who had not a practical knowledge of binding. I don't mean to say he should be skilled enough to do the work himself, but he should know how instantly to detect bad workmanship. There is no reason why a man should not be a scholar and yet have a practical knowledge of the arts connected with his work. He may be a student of Lamb and know him by heart, and yet should know better than to bind his books in sheepskin and—while properly despising 'rogues in buckram'—should know how excellent a covering is buckram for what we call 'upper shelf books,' i.e., books which we must have but are rarely referred to.

"By doing all this work inside we practically enrich our library, for is it not an impoverishment to have books away at the binder's for sometimes three months? And here in the case of a single copy of a book which may be in the bindery, if it is important for our reader to see it at once, he is allowed to look through the book, which as a rule serves his turn. If he must have it for a longer time, the binder's slip is marked 'urgent,' and rarely has he to wait for it more than three days."

I noticed an extraordinary number of tubes attached to the upper part of the walls and almost covering the ceiling of the basement, some of them were about 2 or 3 inches in diameter, others much larger, which my guide explained were pneumatic tubes for all kinds of purposes. The smallest ones were for the passage of messages from one department to another. These messages were enclosed in a small leathern cylinder, literally flashed from one end of the building to the other, and so contrived that they were released almost at the desk of the official they were intended for. The larger ones were used for books up to a limited size.

By this means instead of waiting for an hour or more for a book, a reader could be sitting down before his book within five minutes of entering the building.

Beyond the bindery, and next the engine room, there was an electric plant. "We believe in having two strings to our bow in every important essential, and cannot risk a breakdown of the municipal supply, so we produce our own current, and find it economical, while we have an alternative connection with the city plant, to be turned on only if our own breaks down. Here we have the power required for every other purpose, including warming, for we decided not to run the risk, however remote, of our galleries and shelves being flooded by bursting water or steam pipes, and the radiators are heated by electricity, while in the staff offices the cheerier electric stove is installed. Current for everything requiring power is provided here."

I expressed admiration but ventured a criticism. "You appear to have taken every precaution against fire, and yet some of the worst fires have taken place in so-called fireproof buildings, for even if there are no open fires in the building, an accidental spark from the electric plant, or a short circuit, encouraged by such excellent fuel as furniture, wooden shelves, etc., soon provides a bonfire."

My guide smiled and said: "I am glad you mentioned that; otherwise I might have forgotten to mention that our furniture and carpets are fireproof—a very simple and inexpensive process—and you will see why we do not dread fire."

As we turned toward the upper regions I observed a large trolley full of books emerging from one of the lift doors, and I remarked, "I suppose these are going to the bindery." "Oh, dear me, no! They don't need binding, they are going to the dusting room." "Dusting room!" I exclaimed; "what do you mean?" "I will show you. In discussing the plans for our building with our great Chief, he said, 'Can you not contrive some way of getting rid of that infernal

nuisance, the annual closing down of the library for cleaning?' It practically means that in most libraries it is useless for sometimes two months in the year, and to me it has always seemed that the 'cleaning' would be honestly defined as 'shifting the dirt from one place to another.'

"Well, we took the matter 'into avizandum,' as our friends in the north say, and this is the result. We don't intend ever to close the library for cleaning. The cleaning goes on day by day and every day, in regular rotation. The books are lifted gently (so as not to disturb the dust) from the shelves and placed on one of these noiseless rubber-wheeled trolleys, conveyed to a lift and brought down here by the cleaning staff, while others during their absence wipe down the shelves with a preparation which holds the dust and leaves the shelf perfectly clean. Come into the dusting room."

We followed the trolley and I found myself walking nearly ankle-deep in moist sawdust. The expert cleaners seized the books one at a time, and holding the fore edges tightly, sprinkled the tops with clean damp sawdust, which immediately licked up the dust and was thrown on the ground, when the book was then carefully dusted clean with cloths containing the same preparation, which not only cleaned them, but I was assured acted as a preservative to the binding. When all were clean they were restored to their place on the trolley and carried back to the shelves.

We accompanied the trolley on the lift and were carried to the main library room, a magnificent, well-lighted apartment shelved all round the walls and with projecting cases in the old-fashioned style, forming little bays to give nervous readers an opportunity of doing their work in modified isolation. The shelving seemed of oak, but my guide asked me to examine it more closely, and I found that both shelves and uprights were formed of steel, so artistically enamelled that unless actually handled they appeared to be of fine-grained oak.

My guide went to one of the bays, and, putting his hands under one of the shelves, lifted it and the books together and laid it on the reading table, and then showed me how, by a cunning invention, the shelves, while quite safely fixed in position, could, by touching a couple of springs at the ends, be instantly released and thus enabled space to be economised to the minutest degree. The tables were of the same material as the shelves, and the oaken chairs, designed for comfort but yet artistically, were, as he explained to me, absolutely fireproof.

My guide explained that this room, called the general, or main library, was the largest, and for the general reader, the favourite room. The other rooms, to which he proposed to lead me presently, were for special study, for the use of readers who were engaged on research, or themselves writing books, and for whom it was desirable to have a certain amount of seclusion, and their books kept together.

The general lighting was by reflected light thrown by powerful electric lamps against the white ceiling, by which a delightfully equal light diffused through every corner of the room, while on each reading table I saw there was a separate shaded electric lamp provided with current through a cunning attachment to the pedestal.

"How do you classify your books?" I asked. "We don't classify them. You can't classify a medical library without doing more harm than good. If all medical books were monographs, it could be done, and probably would be useful; but when you remember under how many subjects medical books might be looked for, you will recognize that to classify them under one subject would be hiding them in all the others. Therefore, we find that for practical purposes, both as regards economy of space and quickness of service, it is better to shelve the books chronologically and according to size. This means that our library begins with the earliest books, which are in the remoter parts of the library, and so we march down through the ages, and the books published during the last ten years .

are the most accessible, and the book last received is the last one on the shelves. We depend for our classification on the catalogue in which a reference should be found to any particular book, under every subject with which it deals." I noticed on the larger tables bulky volumes that looked like atlases, and on turning them over found they were filled with original drawings of all kinds—pathological, anatomical, surgical, and bacteriological. "Ah," said my guide, "that is a feature we are proud of. Beautiful and valuable drawings are constantly being made for authors, to illustrate their books and papers published in Transactions, etc., and for the most part, these were destroyed, or at least wasted. Some authors might keep them for a while, but sooner or later they find their way to the dust bin. Now, we have a clerk who, as soon as any particularly good drawing is published, writes to the author and begs him to let us have the original for preservation and display. They are then mounted in these albums with a reference to the paper or book for which they were prepared, and are duly entered in our index. No reproduction of a good drawing can ever equal the original, if only for the reason that, as a rule, they have necessarily to be reduced ; and we find our collection immensely appreciated and in constant use. You will see that there is some attempt at classification in these albums. One album will be devoted to drawings of the surgery or anatomy of the thorax, another to the bacteriology of a particular disease, and so on. Sometimes the author will not part with his drawings, and in that case we get the loan of them and make full-size permanent photographs of them to mount in our albums. When our photographer is not busy with such work, he fills in his time by photographing from perfect copies illustrations and sometimes title pages to enable us to make good imperfect copies of our rarer treasures ; and we have even been able in this way to produce wonderfully good complete copies of unique books and manuscripts, which can only be found in older libraries."

"What are those type-written folios I see displayed on that desk?" "Let us look at them," said the Chief, "as that, too, is a feature we are rather proud of. In a library like this, men are constantly looking up references in connection with their own work, compiling bibliographies, so essential an adjunct to any good medical book. Formerly, this work done, we saw the last of it when their sheets were taken away for the printer; and so we offered all such workers to present them with a fair typed copy of their work on condition that they allowed us to keep a duplicate, and in this way we have secured many hundreds of valuable bibliographies, which are preserved here for the use of others."

We walked on to the adjoining room, equally lofty and equally handsome but smaller, but this I found to be a reference library, from which, my guide explained, no book was ever allowed to be removed except to the bindery. "Not under any circumstances," he said; "for we regard it as essential that there should be a copy of every important book *always available*. In the practice of medicine and surgery, 'next week' or even 'to-morrow' should never be heard in a library. Where life or human suffering is the price to be paid for delay, there must be none, and therefore a sudden demand for any book likely to be required must be instantly answered.

"Without our reference library another of our departments would be handicapped if not impossible. One of the items in Osler's prescription ran: 'Make the library as useful to the worker in Timbuctoo and Tierra del Fuego as to the man who lives round the corner.' I wrote him, 'Excellent idea, but how?' He wired back, 'Oh, *you* know—quite simple—I'm busy.'

"So we had to work it out. We invite our readers abroad and at a distance to keep us informed as to their lines of work or research. Their names are registered and classified—and every month we send them a 'Bulletin' containing references and abstracts of all that has been published on their subject during the

previous month. If they want more, they write to the head of our Abstracting Department, and copies and abstracts of articles in books or journals (translated when necessary) are despatched without delay. One of our correspondents lately wrote, in the preface of an epoch-marking book which he had written on the slopes of the Andes, that our help had made it easier for him than if he had been living in London, for he had been saved the time he would have had to spend in making his own researches in the library ! ”

“ But,” I said, “ all this must cost a fabulous amount. The running expenses alone must equal those of a township. You must have an enormous number of members who pay a high subscription.” “ Members,” he answered, almost indignantly, “ our members, as you call them, include every qualified man and woman throughout the civilised world. Once on a Register a man or a woman is entitled to the best we can do for them without any subscription.” “ Ah, you are a State Department ? ” “ No, we are absolutely untrammelled. I thought you knew the origin of the scheme. You remember that twenty years ago Osler celebrated his seventieth birthday and now, although by the calendar, ninety, he seems determined to prove that a man is not too old at a hundred. The whole civilised world, on the approach of his seventieth birthday, wanted to celebrate it in a way really worthy of their hero, and many meetings and long discussions were held on the best way of doing it. Carnefeller got to hear of it and summoned the testimonial committee to meet him ; brushed all their suggestions on one side and said, ‘ The only sane way of celebrating Osler’s biological palinode is by erecting a library which will realise all his ideals, and if you will carry it out I will provide the dollars,’ and here he handed a cheque to the chairman and left us. On examining it we found the cheque was signed in blank, and in the course of a few minutes it was filled up with such a sum as would cover the most ambitious scheme, with a

sufficient margin for a liberal endowment and, just in case of accidents, promptly banked."

"The *body* is wonderful," I said, "and your mechanical part seems to be as perfect as could be devised. But what about the *soul*—the *intellect*, of this wonderful *body*?" "I was hoping you would come to that," said my guide. "I am the Chief, but I don't pretend to be either the soul or the intellect of such an institution as this. The Chief should be before all things an administrator and a business man, or the whole institution will suffer. We have in all, at present, twelve librarians, each of whom is supreme in his own department, and I verily believe each is the greatest living authority on the subject he deals with." "But how can you get men of such attainments to accept such positions? For while I am sure that the matter of salaries is dealt with as liberally as everything else in this wonderful institution, men of such attainments would probably be earning princely incomes by the practice of their profession." "No, you are quite wrong. You will find in every profession men who are by temperament students rather than practitioners, and who would rather work for a modest competence in extending their knowledge than in the practice of their profession, and this is notably so in that of Medicine. And so we have here, for example, a man who has, perhaps, a better knowledge of anatomy than all the professors put together, but he is happier here adding to and administering our anatomical collection, than he would be if he held the most important professorship. He has no faculty for teaching, and knows it; but raise any abstruse point in anatomy with him, and he will at once, without consulting any index or catalogue, place before you the answer to your question. It is the same with our surgical librarian. When he inadvertently removed the second kidney, leaving an overlooked forceps in its place, he decided that the practice of surgery was not his forte, and his love for and wide knowledge of the literature of the subject brought him

to us. And so it is with each of the others. They have not exactly a free hand in their departments, for some of them would spend all our available income on their own department ; but they come to me with their lists of desiderata and I decide, having in view the necessity of a fair balance between one department and another. We are in constant communication, in addition to the practice of taking our meals together in the refectory. And each has his own room, connected by telephone with mine. We make great use of the telephone." At this moment, I saw one of the assistants on a high ladder perilously balancing some heavy volumes, and before I realised the danger, boy, books, and ladder fell with a crash towards me.—When I came to myself, I heard the telephone ringing, started up, and found I was in my own chair by my own fireside, and rushed to the telephone. "Hello! Is that Mayfair 3271?" "No, wrong number!"

From Contributions to medical and biological research dedicated to Sir William Osler, Bart., M.D., F.R.S., in honour of his seventieth birthday, July 12, 1919, by his pupils and co-workers, Vol. 1, New York, 1919, pp. 111-121.

CHAPTER XVIII

JAMES DUFF BROWN (1862-1914)

THE name of James Duff Brown is better known among modern librarians than that of any of his contemporaries, chiefly on account of the fact that his *Manual of library economy* is maintained up to date as the standard textbook on the subject, and because his Subject Classification is still in use. A new edition of the latter revised by Mr. J. D. Stewart appeared as recently as 1939. Many of his other activities are remembered only by elder librarians, who cherish the memory of a charming personality and a remarkably progressive librarian.

Brown was born in Edinburgh on November 6, 1862, and after a brief period as apprentice in the publishing business, became a member of the staff in the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, in December, 1878. Ten years later he went to Clerkenwell Public Library as Librarian, where he later introduced safeguarded open access. In 1892 his anonymous paper "A plea for liberty to readers to help themselves"¹ had been published, and two years later Brown visited America, where he found open access in several libraries, but safeguarded open access was his own innovation. He introduced many ideas for the development of library organisation, and several library appliances were invented by him.

The Quinn-Brown system of classification was described in a paper read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association² and Brown's Subject Classification, first published in 1906, is still in use. Among Brown's many contributions to the literature of librarianship

¹ *The Library*, 4, 1892, pp. 302-5.

² *Ibid.*, 7, 1895, pp. 75-82.

should be mentioned his *Guide to the formation of a music library*, 1893. (Library Association Series, No. 4); *Characteristic songs and dances of all nations*, 1901, written in collaboration with Alfred Moffat; *Biographical dictionary of musicians*, 1886; *Handbook of library appliances*, 1892; *British musical biography*, 1897, with Stephen Stratton as joint author; *Manual of library classification and shelf arrangement*, 1898. His *Manual of library economy* was first published in 1903, and has been maintained up to date under the capable editorship of Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers. In 1897 Brown planned and edited *Greenwood's Year Book*, and the following year founded *The Library World*. He edited the latter for many years, and much anonymous material was contributed by his pen.

A few of his aphorisms gleaned from that periodical indicate that he had a lighter side to his character. For example :

If you cannot classify a book—don't buy it.

A book in the hand is worth two at the binders.

A misguided ambition to get married is the main cause of the zeal of library assistants for advancement.

The librarian who invented everything before anybody else was born, is generally a man with a strongly developed inventive faculty.

James Duff Brown became the first Borough Librarian of Islington in 1904, and died on February 26, 1914. He had been a Councillor of the Library Association from 1890 to 1911, and librarianship owes much to his progressive foresight and boundless energy, which enabled him to contribute so much towards the advancement of all subjects covered by the term library organisation.¹

¹ There is a Memoir of Brown in his *Manual of library economy* *Third and memorial edition, revised and rewritten by W. C. Berwick Sayers, [etc.]*, 1920, pp. 1-10. [Bibliography & portrait.] See also *Library Association Record*, May, 1914, for numerous tributes.

BROWN'S "A PLEA FOR LIBERTY" TO READERS TO HELP
THEMSELVES

There has been so much discussion recently about charging or lending systems in public libraries, that a brief note on the subject from an unusual point of view may not be thought amiss. We call it "unusual," because it is rather that than novel, having over a century's antiquity to boast of; and the idea for lending library management about to be described, is, therefore, only to be considered as a fresh application of a good old method. The original lending library, or circulating library as it was commonly called, had no counter to speak of, and subscribers were allowed direct access to the books on the shelves. This plan is in vogue at the present time in all kinds of commercial and proprietary subscription libraries. It is the plan now worked in various reference libraries, to which readers have access under certain restrictions, and may be seen in operation in the British Museum, Sion College, London, and various collegiate and other libraries. Most important of all for the purpose of this note, it is in operation successfully in various town libraries in England, the Colonies, and the United States, and *any person from the street*, being clean and of proper age, may have unrestricted access to the books on open shelves. This being so, why is it that borrowers in Public Lending Libraries are kept at bay by barriers and all sorts of mechanical contrivances, notwithstanding that they are all guaranteed, and, to a large extent, well known to the staff? If Tom, Dick, and Harry, minus any credentials whatever, can enter reference libraries at Bradford, Cambridge, Melbourne, and elsewhere, to select his reading, why is it that Thomas, Richard, and Henry, fully vouched for and carefully selected, cannot exercise a similar privilege? It is simply because of the RULES AND REGULATIONS! and also because a certain traditional distrust of the public makes librarians and their masters dread an annual loss of half-a-dozen

volumes in the effort to make their readers thoroughly satisfied, by permitting the right of free selection unhampered by bad catalogues, and indicators which save trouble only to the staff. The outstanding fact and universal cry in all popular lending libraries, is not only that borrowers cannot get the books they want, but also that they cannot chance upon any book likely to suit them, owing to catalogues being mere inventories, and the existence of all sorts of barriers, which make the selection of books a heart-break and a labour tainted with disgust. The number of persons who leave our lending libraries with the conviction that they are impositions is too great to be easily calculated, and for the credit of modern librarianship, it is perhaps best that nothing definite should be known. What lending libraries want, in addition to a less suspicious method of dealing with the public, is a better means of making their book-wealth known, while giving a less elaborate system of charging and service. To some extent the proposal about to be made meets every want which can arise in the public use of a library, while it also sweeps away the artificial intermediaries, which have been gradually adopted to meet the requirements of small staffs, and the various exigencies of charging systems designed for speed in issues and accuracy in recording. In short, the proposal simply amounts to this : *Let the public inside, and place the staff outside, the counter.* The book shelves are ordinary standards about seven feet six inches high, raised nine to twelve inches from the floor by a narrow step, and spaced about six feet apart. In these the books are closely classified according to subjects and authors (in the case of fiction), and properly numbered and marked as in libraries where public access and close classification go hand in hand. Each class would have a differently *shaped* location label, and each shelf of a tier a different *colour* of label, to get over the disarrangement difficulty. The movable location would be used, and the backs of the books would simply bear a label, according to class and

shelf number conspicuously marked on it, the classes to be arranged so that fiction would go all round the walls alphabetically, and subjects so distributed that crowding would be reduced in the different divisions. The whole to be so plainly labelled and marked, that only the blind would be unable to find a given subject—author or number. There are many ways of doing all this, which need not at present be entered upon. Each borrower on joining receives an identification card, which he retains till it expires, and in addition a small pass-book, bearing his name and number, and ruled to show the numbers of books read and dates of their issue, is kept at the library. When he enters to get a book he simply shows his identification ticket bearing his number, and the assistant hands over the pass-book, and allows him to pass the turnstile on the left of the plan. At this turnstile umbrellas, hand-bags, etc., must be left, and unsatisfactory messengers and non-registered borrowers stopped. The reader proceeds to the shelves and makes his selection, probably contenting himself with Hooker's *Ecclesiastical Polity*, on finding Mrs. Henry Wood all out ! He then goes to the turnstile on the right of the plan, and hands his book and pass-book to the assistant, who simply enters the book number in it, and dates both book and pass-book. The reader then goes out, leaving the pass-book. A simple card-charging system enables the librarian to tell all the books out, and who has them ; who among the borrowers have books out, and who have not ; as well as when any given book is due back at the library, and the issues of a given day. When a book is returned the same routine is observed, except that the assistant goes to a dated tray for the pass-book instead of to the stock of unclaimed tickets. In this way a complete and simple plan is worked, which has advantages in economy to the library and real usefulness to the public, not to be gained by any other lending library systems now in use. The educational value to the readers would be enormous, and the popularity and standard of reading of every .

library would be largely increased. The arrangement of the plan provides for such a degree of supervision that thefts would probably be less common than at the first glance seems likely; while the presence of an assistant, free to help readers, and keep order among both books and people, would add to the value of the whole scheme. It is not for the writer of this to suggest weaknesses in it, nor to affirm that the arrangements of old-established libraries could easily be altered to admit of the plan being adopted; but it is for him to claim some consideration for the scheme, especially from those who have it in their power to make it a feature in new buildings. The subject is one which deserves the best thought which librarians can give, and it may be that the plan is actually less revolutionary and dangerous than it may seem at first sight. In any case it is felt necessary to safeguard the position now taken up, by stating that all the possible arguments in favour of the plan have *not* been advanced. On the other hand, three points are admitted as possibly, though not probably, adverse to the general adoption of the scheme, and these are—possible thefts, possible disarrangement, and the possible increase of the idler. But are these, and even the somewhat more probable objection of additional wear and tear to the books, to be set against the enormous advantages to the public of proper access to their own libraries?

“THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COUNTER”¹

From *The Library*, 4, 1892, pp. 302-5.

BROWN'S PREFACE TO HIS MANUAL OF LIBRARY ECONOMY

This work is an attempt to provide a text-book of advanced library practice, on more comprehensive lines than anything of the kind yet published in English. There is no single work on modern library economy which gives a general account of the principal methods

¹ The plan accompanying this article is omitted. [J. L. T.]

which have survived the test of continuous and widespread trial, nor one which considers these methods and principles as affected by the rate limitation imposed by the Public Libraries Acts.

Librarianship in Britain has suffered to some extent from the lack of anything in the way of classification of its essential elements, and it differs from most other sciences in having no generally recognised series of established facts to form a basis on which to erect a properly developed science of library economy. Perhaps it is fortunate that British library practice has progressed on freely experimental lines, allowing for improvements and readjustment at any point, as it will thus avoid all risk of becoming stereotyped, or running into grooves which may tend to check the growth of original ideas. The hampering effects of too much uniformity are to be seen in full operation in France and the United States. In the former, a government bureau has ordained that the communal libraries shall be organised according to a narrow and very elementary code of rules, drawn up nearly twenty years ago, in which every detail of library management is made the subject of a cut-and-dried ordinance. Naturally, this effectually stifles improvement and produces a monotonous uniformity which rejoices the official mind without, however, attracting or satisfying the public.

In the United States a much higher level of attainment has been reached, but here again the paralysing hand of uniformity has arrested progress after a certain standard of efficiency has become general. American libraries are conducted on lines which closely resemble those of ordinary commercial practice, in which everything is subordinated to the furtherance of profits and economy. Their methods are standardised, and everything is more or less interchangeable, with the result that in America we witness practically the same phenomenon as in conservative France. Where methods are run on codified lines, there is always this danger of everything becoming fixed, and all the

advantages arising from adjustability and the power of revision being lost in the unprofitable pursuit of the unalterable. In British libraries most methods have been in a state of flux for fifty years, and there is little immediate danger of any process crystallising into a fixed and unalterable condition. For this state of things we have to thank our freedom from too much state interference, and the comparative absence of commercial syndicates which profess to supply libraries and librarians ready made. The only fixed principle from which British libraries suffer is the rate which may be levied for library purposes, and for this our Government is entirely responsible, having been smitten for once with the French bureaucratic craze for a mediocre uniformity.

This manual does not attempt to record all the conventions and traditions of the older librarianship, nor does it pretend to describe all the ideas and methods of librarianship. It endeavours to collect and summarise some of the best and most vital methods which have been adopted, and to arrange them in such divisions as may tend to give the book a systematic form, and so place the study of library economy on a more consistent and scientific basis than heretofore. For the first time, too, an effort is made to consider questions connected with buildings, finance, books, etc., from the standpoint of the limitation of the Library Rate. This brings out in full relief the crippling influence of the plan of financial restriction placed upon every department of British library work by Parliamentary limitations, and shows the difficulty of further developments and improvements in library equipment and practice, without additional means. . . .

JAMES DUFF BROWN.

Clerkenwell Public Library,
Finsbury, London.

May, 1903.

[pp. iii-v]

BROWN ON LIBRARIANS

Like the prominent members of every other trade, profession or branch of learning, good librarians are born, not made. No amount of training or experience will create such natural gifts as enthusiasm, originality, initiative and positive genius for the work ; but training in sound methods will help to provide a passable substitute for natural aptitude. Experience alone will not prove equally valuable, because it may not have been associated in its course with training in effective methods, and consequently may only represent knowledge of an effete and inefficient class. If all library methods were identical, and of the same standard of advanced excellence, experience alone would equal special training ; but owing to the very wide difference between the methods of twenty or thirty years ago, and the more scientific methods of today, it is necessary to judge the experience of any librarian by the school in which he has been trained.

[p. 53]

BROWN ON INTER-LIBRARY LOANS

This is a method of book distribution which has not been tried to any extent among British municipal libraries, and some organisation would be required to place it on a working basis. Briefly, the idea is to enable a public library which has not got a particular book to borrow it from some library which has, assuming all the responsibility for its safety and due return, and making its own arrangement with its borrower for the cost of carriage. This kind of exchanging could be managed better in London than anywhere else, but it could be applied to any group of libraries, such as those of Lancashire, Wales, Yorkshire, Staffordshire, etc. Each exchanging library would require to possess a

complete set of class lists and bulletins, or other catalogues, of all the other libraries, and when a demand was made for a book which was not in its possession the assistant could look through the catalogues of the other libraries till he found a copy, and it could then be written for, the borrower paying all resulting expenses. Of course, this arrangement would only apply to non-fictional works. We have done this on several occasions, often with excellent results, and certainly to the amazement and joy of our borrowers, whose admiration for our resources and command of literature in other libraries has made them devoted life supporters of the library! There would be an undoubted advantage, too, if such a privilege could be obtained for public library borrowers from some of the proprietary libraries with huge stocks of practically unused books which municipal libraries would not buy in the ordinary course. Arrangements whereby books from special scientific or other libraries could be borrowed for the use of local borrowers would benefit a greater number of students and other persons than at present. But, of course, there would be very serious difficulties in the way of inducing the owners of valuable special libraries to lend books for the use of strangers introduced by municipal library authorities. Meanwhile, because of these difficulties thousands upon thousands of valuable and useful books are lying idle and neglected in every part of the country; a waste of power which it is sad to contemplate.

[pp. 412-13]

Extracts from Brown, James Duff. *Manual of library economy, [etc.]*, 1903.

CHAPTER XIX

JOHN MINTO (1863-1935)

JOHN MINTO died about twelve years ago, and his writings are well known to many librarians. He was a native of Aberdeenshire, and was born in 1863. He graduated M.A. at Aberdeen University in 1885, and received his early library training at King's College, Aberdeen, where he was a member of the staff from 1885-1892. In the latter year he was appointed Sub-Librarian of Aberdeen Public Library, but four years later went to Perth as Librarian. In 1902 Minto went south to Brighton as Chief Librarian, where he completely reorganised the library. However, he returned to his native land in 1906 as Librarian of the Society of Writers to the Signet, Edinburgh.

Minto served on the Council of the Library Association for thirty years, was Vice-President for nine years, and from 1930-1934 was Chairman of the Education Committee. As Honorary Secretary of the British Committee responsible for the compilation of the Anglo-American Code, published in 1908, he closely collaborated with his opposite number, Mr. J. C. M. Hanson, and did much to bring the task to a fruitful conclusion. Minto was President of the Scottish Library Association from 1921 to 1925.

The urgent need for a bibliography of reference books was met by Minto's *Reference books*, 1929, to which a supplement was issued in 1931. He also wrote for the Library Association Series of textbooks *A history of the public library movement in Great Britain and Ireland*, which was published in 1932, and represents a most thorough .

record of the development of librarianship within the limits set by the title.

Minto was a great lover of Aberdeen, and did much useful work for that city. As a librarian he was thorough, although cautious, while his writings indicate a genuine interest in his career that was of real value to his fellow librarians.¹

MINTO ON THE HISTORY OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT

The establishment and growth of the public library may be viewed as part of the great social movement for the spread of knowledge among the poorer classes which took place in the late eighteenth century and the early years of the nineteenth century. This movement was characterized by the establishment of various educational agencies, some account of which may here be briefly given.

Sunday Schools which, in their beginnings, were not exclusively religious institutions, and were not confined to children, were the result of the pioneer efforts of Robert Raikes, printer in Gloucester (1780), of the Rev. Rowland Hill in London (1784), of Hannah More, Sydney Smith, and others. Secular subjects were taught in these schools, and evening classes were sometimes held during the week as part of the system. The formation of the Sunday School Union in 1803 gave a powerful impetus to the movement in England. It provided for "the training of teachers, the grading of classes, and schemes of lessons suitable to the various stages of the scholars' mental growth."²

The establishment of two important societies, the National Society for the Education of the Poor (1811) and the British and Foreign School Society (1814), carried forward the educational movement for the

¹ See *Library Association Record*, 4th Series, 2, 1935, pp. 322-4. [Portrait.] By E. A. Savage; also p. 487.

² *Chambers's Encyclopedia* (Article on Sunday Schools).

greater part of the nineteenth century. The moving spirits of these two societies were the Rev. Andrew Bell, D.D., and Joseph Lancaster.

[pp. 15-16]

In the early part of the seventeenth century the desire to help their less-fortunate brethren led a few wealthy and philanthropic men to present or bequeath their collections of books to municipalities with a view to their preservation for the free use of all.

A public library was established in the Free Grammar School of Coventry in 1601, the initiative being probably taken by Dr. Philemon Holland, "the translator-general of his age." A separate library room was provided in the school. This library existed until 1913 or 1914, when the valuable residue was sold by the governors of the school, much to the dismay and indignation of the citizens when the facts became known. The original donation book of the library, with a list of the first donors, is now in the Cambridge University Library, the authorities of which had the good sense to purchase what Coventry had stupidly sold. Probably this public library and that of Norwich were the earliest municipal public libraries in England.

The municipality of the city of Norwich in 1608 set apart three rooms, "parcel of the sword-bearer's dwelling," and fitted them up for the reception of a library in the south porch of the New Hall (now St. Andrew's Hall). The rooms were to serve the additional purpose of lodgings for preachers coming from a distance to preach in the city. The sword-bearer had to find "bedding, lynnynge, and other necessities for their lodging." The Mayor, Sir Thomas Petters, set a good example, which was quickly followed, by heading the list of gifts to the new library with fifteen volumes.¹

¹ Article by Albert D. Euren, Editor of the *Norwich Mercury*, in *Book Auction Records*, Vol. 10, 1913, p. xxiv.

This early library now forms part of the Norwich Public Library.

In 1615 a city library was opened at Bristol through the munificence of Dr. Toby Matthew, Archbishop of York, and Robert Redwood, a public-spirited citizen. This library, like that at Norwich, was afterwards incorporated in the Bristol Public Library. In 1623 Sir John Kederminster established a parochial free library at Langley Marish in Buckinghamshire. Leicester has had a city library since 1632, and the famous library of Sir Humphrey Chetham¹ was, under the terms of his will, made freely accessible to the inhabitants of Manchester in 1653. The great difficulty in preserving the continuity of these early libraries has been the want of provision for their maintenance and the lack of funds for their growth. The Chetham Library is believed to be the only library in England with a continuous history since its foundation, freely accessible to all. It will readily be understood that these few and scattered libraries could, of necessity, do little to meet the needs of the reading public of England.

[pp. 22-4]

MINTO ON THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT, 1850

Meantime, on the same day, as it happens, on which the Select Committee was reappointed (February 14, 1850), Mr. William Ewart introduced in the House of Commons his "Bill for enabling Town Councils to establish Public Libraries and Museums." In doing so, he said there was scarcely any country in Europe so inadequately provided with public libraries as England. Generally speaking, on the Continent the rule of accessibility was universal. In Italy and Germany no great town was without a library. Here there was only a sort of small public library in Manchester; but there were none in Glasgow, Leeds, Sheffield, and other

¹ Chetham was not entitled to the knighthood here conferred upon him.
[J. L. T.]

great manufacturing towns ; whilst in Amiens, Rouen, Lyons, Marseilles, and other towns in France the working-classes resorted in numbers to the fine public libraries that were open to them. The Americans had made far greater advancement in the matter than the people of this country had. In every state of the Union there was a library kept up by the State, and accessible to the public, and from them the people derived immense benefit. His Bill was a brief one. A few years ago his friend the member for Salford (Mr. Brotherton) and himself had introduced a Bill enabling Town Councils to establish public museums of art and science. It was carried unanimously and had proved of considerable advantage to the public. The proposed Bill would consolidate the two Bills and enable Town Councils to found both museums and public libraries. The Museums Act gave power to levy a rate of one half-penny in the pound. That principle he had adopted to allow Town Councils to purchase land and erect buildings and furnish them out of the proceeds. The property would be vested for ever in the Town Council, thus securing perpetuity. The Museums Act restricted the power to towns of 10,000 inhabitants. He thought it better to extend the power to all municipal bodies whatsoever. He proposed to abolish the charge of one penny per person admitted to the museum which was allowed by the Museums Act. It was a useless impediment. His Bill would not give the Town Council power to purchase books ; they relied upon books being supplied by the donations of individuals. There arose the question, Was it called for ? It was. It had even been anticipated by the town of Warrington, which had taken advantage of the Museums Act to establish a library as well as a museum. In Salford, too, the Town Council had placed at the disposal of the public a large building which was in their possession, and although it had been in existence as a library only six months they already had 5,000 books in it. One advantage of the museums would be that they would be

illustrative of the local and natural history of the places in which they were established. The promoters of the Bill merely asked that these popular institutions might be legally founded by the people, supported by the people, and enjoyed by the people.

[pp. 80-2]

The Act as passed enabled Town Councils to establish public libraries and museums, and repealed the Museums Act of 1845. The operation of the Act was confined to boroughs having a population exceeding 10,000 "according to the last count taken thereof by authority of Parliament." The procedure in adopting the Act was as follows: The Mayor, upon the request of the Town Council, was empowered to cause a notice to be fixed on the door of the town hall and on the doors of every church or chapel within the borough, and to be inserted in a local newspaper specifying on what day not earlier than ten days after the affixing and publication of such notice, and at what place or places within the borough the burgesses are required to signify their votes for or against the adoption of the Act. A two-thirds majority of the votes given was necessary to secure adoption. The Act, when adopted, gave power to the Town Council to purchase or rent any lands or buildings for the purpose of forming public libraries or museums of art and science, or both, and to erect, alter, and extend any buildings for such purpose, to maintain them in good repair, to purchase fuel, lighting, fixtures, and furniture, to appoint officers and servants with salaries and remuneration, and to make rules and regulations for their safety and use and for admission of visitors and others, *but they had no power to purchase books or specimens*. They were given power to levy a rate up to one halfpenny in the pound of annual value, and to borrow money on the security of that rate for the above purposes. The buildings so acquired were to be vested in the Town Council, or in any committee appointed

by them, to be held in trust for ever. Admission to the libraries to be free of charge. If the adoption of the Act was rejected, no further application for its adoption could be made within the next two years.

Thus after a long struggle, and in the face of opposition hardly credible at the present day, the fight was won, and the first Public Libraries Act became law. This result was achieved through the enthusiasm and perseverance of its chief promoters, William Ewart and Joseph Brotherton, with whom must ever be associated Edward Edwards, whose whole-hearted support is fully disclosed in his evidence, and in the carefully compiled statistics which he had gathered over a number of years, and freely put at the disposal of the Select Committee.

[pp. 94-5]

Extracts from Minto, John. *A history of the public library movement in Great Britain and Ireland*, 1932.

CHAPTER XX

SEPTIMUS ALBERT PITT (1878-1937)

SEPTIMUS ALBERT PITT was born at Low Fell, Co. Durham, in 1878, and at the age of 14 became assistant in the South Shields Public Library, two years later occupying the position of Sub-Librarian when less than seventeen years of age. He occupied a similar position at Aberdeen from 1898 to 1901, when he went to the Gorbals Library, Glasgow, as Librarian. Two years later Pitt became superintendent of branch libraries, but in 1908 went to Coventry as City Librarian. However, he returned to Glasgow in 1915, where he greatly extended the library services. He organised the first municipal commercial library in this country, and was an ardent advocate for their development in other areas. Pitt opened the music department at the Mitchell Library, and printed a union catalogue of the Glasgow libraries which was published in two volumes, 1929-1934.

Pitt served the Library Association as a member of the Council from 1915, Vice-President in 1920, and as President in 1934, but during this latter term of office he suffered severely from ill health. In 1924 he served on the Departmental Committee on Public Libraries, and also reported on the library services in South Africa and Kenya for the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Septimus Pitt was a very thorough and cautious worker, who rendered great services to the libraries with which he was connected, to the Library Association, and to librarianship in general. Unfortunately he died on August 27, 1937, at the early age of 59, and the inspira-

tion of a remarkable personality was removed prematurely from our midst.¹

PITT ON THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The enthusiasm of the original members of The Library Association was most notable. All sorts of projects were suggested and considered: A General Catalogue of English Literature, A Book Classification Scheme first suggested by Dr. F. T. Barratt, A Manual of Librarianship, first mooted by Sir John MacAlister, and other schemes, small and large, some very large. All these projects came to nothing for want of money and workers. In its middle period the Association became little more than a debating society on library topics, sometimes a rather ill-tempered debating society, and during this period very little constructive work was accomplished. Probably the Sound Leather Committee, under the guidance of E. Wyndham Hulme, gave some of the best results, but apart from this and a few other very minor activities, and apart from its debating opportunities, the work of the Association was barren for many years. Now there are many branches of librarianship in which it is essential that research should be undertaken and that data should be collected. Is it not desirable, now that an increased membership gives us strength and increases the number of our workers, that some of this work which is waiting to be done should be tackled? The attainment of maturity has brought with it greater opportunities and wider responsibilities than those given to the Association in its infant and adolescent stages, and we shall be judged according to the degree to which we initiate and stimulate the essential activities and developments made possible by our growth and increased resources.

Very important changes have taken place during the

¹ See, Past-President Pitt. Died August 27th, 1937. *Library Association Record*, 39, 1937, pp. 552-6. [Appreciations by E. A. Savage, J. M. Mitchell, A. M. Williams, W. C. Berwick Sayers, and Charles Nowell. Portrait.]

last two decades, and never were the opportunities greater and more numerous than they are today for those interested in the library movement. But it is clear that the need for wise direction is equally emphatic. Just as the Royal Commission of 1849 indicated a great and fallow field, so did the Departmental Committee's Report of 1927 describe conditions and suggest advancement. Stimulated as public libraries were during the later years of last century and the earlier years of this by the princely gifts of generous benefactors, they have been equally aided by the liberal and systematic policy of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust which has carried out with knowledge and vision its founder's views.

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Fifty-seven years ago The Library Association was inaugurated at the First International Conference of Librarians held in London. Two hundred and sixteen persons were enumerated as Members of the Conference, including overseas representatives, and 114 of these came from libraries in Great Britain and Ireland. The foundation of the Association, with its object "to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, for the purpose of promoting the best possible administration of existing libraries, and the formation of new ones where desirable," . . . and "the encouragement of bibliographical research," was very properly claimed by Mr. H. R. Tedder to be a practical result of the Conference which left to the Association the task of continuing the good work the Conference had commenced.

The Conference met in the London Institution by the hospitality of the Board of Management, and during the fifty-six years following the Association continued to carry on its work in rooms either lent or rented.

Many of the most significant changes which have influenced recent development date from the year 1915. In that year the Carnegie United Kingdom Trustees issued the Report prepared at their request by Professor

W. G. S. Adams, which included recommendations resulting later in the establishment of county libraries. In the following year the fore-runner of the National Central Library had its origin in the Central Library for Students. The years 1918-1920 will remain outstanding for legislative measures, *inter alia*, those constituting Counties as library areas and extending or removing limits on the rate for the support of libraries. In 1927 we had the Report of the Departmental Committee on Public Libraries in England and Wales, followed two years later by a similar publication for the Libraries of Northern Ireland. Then last year, largely as the result of the benevolent aid and encouragement of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust—exercised continuously throughout the period under review—Chaucer House and the new premises for the National Central Library were opened.

Other events and projects encourage us to be hopeful about future progress. The new Manchester Library, the nearly completed Cambridge University Library, the projected huge extension to the Bodleian, and the emergence of the Leeds University Library as one of the most important in the country, justify me, I think, in describing this as a time of great library building—such a time as we have not seen hitherto in the history of the Association. Among other events of the same hopeful kind I note the success of the fund for purchasing the *Codex Sinaiticus*. The fact that so large a sum of money has been raised so quickly in these times is heartening testimony to the foresight of our past President, Sir Frederic Kenyon, to the public's belief that the British Museum should continue to remain the chief literary treasure house of the nation, and the result is a complete answer to those few critics who received the project with so little faith and even less judgment.

Under greatly improved conditions what is to be our future programme? The Report of the Departmental

Committee, based on official replies to systematic enquiry, made important pronouncements regarding existing conditions and offered suggestions toward betterment. It not only revealed the absence of library provision from many urban districts, but indicated that half the county population of 12,000,000 was similarly unprovided for eight years ago. Where services had been established and were ineffective, recommendations were submitted with the object of bringing about improvements to enable them to meet reasonable requirements. Schemes were outlined with a view to securing the better selection of books and the establishment of a central cataloguing agency. The recruitment and training of staffs was carefully considered and suggestions for future practice were made. And, among other important features of the Report, the ideal of an organized national library service was set forth with the proposed changes in legislation to make such a service effective.

Unfortunately, as an Association, our reactions to the inspiration offered by the Report have proved disappointing. A glance at the "Annals" discloses the fact that, although the Council have incidentally made slight progress affecting some of the Committee's suggestions, no definite and systematic action has been taken to bring about the conditions envisaged by the Report. Indeed, we have evidence that on some matters, regarding which the Report is very explicit, recommendations have either not been adopted or have been only partially accepted. This, however, need not affect the attitude of the Association on the question of its future policy and programme. Responsibility for the extension of the relevant acts to areas unprovided with library service remains one of the objects of the Association stated in the Royal Charter, and continues to be an important function of the Association.

Nor can the Association conscientiously remain inactive in regard to those areas in which a library service exists in name rather than in practice. Local

acceptance of a low and inadequate standard of provision is one of the worst possible advertisements for the movement generally, and the library service, as a whole, cannot even approximate to present day requirements until much improvement has been made in the backward areas.

The training of staff is an ever pressing problem which demands continuous attention, and it is perhaps well that we should not lose sight of the fact that some of the difficulties involved are largely of our own creation. At the moment, professional educational provision and examination falls into two separate and unrelated forms. The first, which was founded in the earlier days of The Library Association, offers the student of library practice and associated subjects tuition by correspondence and short term summer schools, and provides professional examinations, the ultimate aim of which is the Diploma. The second is the University of London School of Librarianship, which was established on the representations of the Library Association, in 1919. It is not without interest to note that during last year more than 1,600 candidates sat at the examinations of the first, while 128 students enrolled in the second. The two examination systems are now equated, but each body continues to issue its own Diploma—a state of affairs which is not desirable. Inevitably, questions of the comparative value of the diploma must arise, and wisdom suggests a thorough and early analysis of the situation if the bitterness of professional partisanship, with all its distasteful concomitants, is to be avoided. In my opinion the remedy lies in the establishment of a joint examinational board representing the University, the Association, and Employers of Librarians.

For the first time in the history of the Association it has become possible to establish in premises of our own.

a centre for the collection and dissemination of information regarding every branch of library work. The establishment of an efficiently organized information bureau, reinforced by a well-equipped library, should prove an invaluable centre for the accumulation of records and data on all topics embraced by library interests. To it, we should hope, the librarian would turn as a matter of course when seeking guidance on any of the many problems to which the desire for progress gives rise. Records relating to new and altered buildings, systems of heating and lighting, designs for furnishings and decoration, and notes on new and unusual materials should all be readily accessible to the members. There should be concentrated in the Bureau the maps of library areas showing how the units of service are co-ordinated, and with them should be seen the plans of the libraries themselves, with particulars of cost of sites, of erection, and of maintenance, and such information about service as might be helpful to others likely to be faced by questions of a similar nature. In this connection it is worthy of note that a Committee of the Council has been appointed to pursue enquiries with a view to the publication of serviceable facts relating to library buildings and their equipment. The first of a series of papers will deal with the subjects of "Sites," and this and subsequent publications will, it is believed, make valuable addition to the information otherwise available, and bring it up-to-date. Recent developments in the design, materials, and methods used in the construction of buildings and their equipment, have almost revolutionized what was not long ago accepted as standard.

The Bureau should also aim to be the repository of information on the diverse methods of library operation, of classification, cataloguing, and the treatment of stock, of the filing of maps, plans, pamphlets, papers and cuttings, and of the preparation of statistics.

At each annual meeting a display of new materials and methods would form an attractive and valuable

practical exhibit offering all who wish to note improvements an opportunity of familiarizing themselves with recent progress.

At the Headquarters there should be accessible the technical library for librarians, which should include the literature published not only by our own Association, but by similar bodies elsewhere, all works about the library movement, and kindred publications.

The productions of our own Publications Committee should be prominently exhibited there. In his remarks at the Harrogate Conference Mr. Savage referred to publications of a kind which might properly engage the attention of our Publications Committee. He instanced particularly the series *Reading with a Purpose*, issued by the American Library Association and gave figures indicating that they met with a ready sale in America, largely through public libraries and very probably to readers using those libraries. We certainly have a similar need and, I believe, a relatively good market for productions of the same kind suitable for our public. In the absence of something more ambitious I would stress the need for guides to the best standard works which are looked for in every public library.

In addition to its technical library the Association now has accommodation for the exhibition of selected current literature. It may not be possible to maintain such a display on a large scale, or to incorporate from week to week the most recent additions, but by periodical revision of the selection and the showing of such new publications as merit exhibition, a really useful purpose might be served.

Much valuable work is being done up and down the country by the provision of guides to the literature of special subjects, and it is a matter for regret that the publications as a rule are available only to local readers. It takes little effort of the imagination to calculate how the value of this work would be increased inordinately if the outcome of it were available to every reader in the land. The correlation and distribution of such

guides is a task that might well fall within the purview of the Publications Committee's activities. I have in mind such guides as those on Music and other subjects produced by the Leeds Public Libraries and sold at prices bringing them within the reach of almost any reader. These must have provided invaluable guidance to large numbers of student-readers in Leeds. If, by agreement, the Publications Committee could have issued these guides and given the benefit of their production to readers in different towns and countries, where the books included in the prints are available, the benefits would have been greatly extended.

In reviewing the situation as it exists to-day, notwithstanding the improved position of libraries and their greater potentialities individually and collectively, it is necessary to keep before us the need for further legislation. From a comparison of the powers vested in County and Borough authorities in England and Wales, it is clear that there is considerable room for amendment and extension which would result in improved administration. On many of the points raised in the Report of the Departmental Committee suggestions are made for the betterment of library service by alteration of, or addition to, library Acts. In Scotland there is urgent need for the additional powers which have been granted to England and Wales. To mention only the most important of these, I would draw attention to the fact that, while county libraries are empowered to co-operate with public libraries, no such right is conferred on the burghs; and that the amount of rate which may be fixed for the support of libraries in counties is left to the discretion of library authorities, while in towns the restriction on rate—removed in England and Wales—still remains. Although regional service has been established and makes good progress south of the border, it is impossible under present conditions on the Scottish side.

As Regional co-operative services throughout the country must necessarily form the foundation of an

organized national service, no petty legislative obstacles should be allowed to prevent progress. The ideal of the national service should be ever in the minds of all who have the interest of libraries at heart and towards its achievement every member of the Association should be ready to contribute his share.

Omitting reference to activities in which the Association should engage jointly with other bodies, I have attempted to point out the form and direction which some of our efforts should take, and here it may not be inappropriate to say a word about ourselves in our constitutional relations.

I have not discussed our internal organization, although I am well aware of points of weakness that could hardly fail to develop in conditions of our rapid growth in recent times. As membership continues to increase and the strength of the various sections grows—often disproportionately—there will arise the possibility of disruptive tendencies through divergent and necessarily partisan views. This is a danger that must be guarded against if we are to retain and consolidate our improved position. The weaknesses that emerge will, in due course, be eliminated by time and the patient tolerance of those affected by them. And so I end with an appeal for the development of the spirit of unity which has brought us where we are—an appeal to every member of the Association to devote himself, or herself, to its main objects, to take the broadest view of its aims and activities, and to contribute through sections of the Association the maximum effort towards that ideal of national service to which our present position is such a long step forward.

Extracts from Pitt, S. A. Presidential Address. The Library Association: retrospect and prospect. London Conference, September, 1934. *Library Association Record*, 4th Series, 1, 1934, pp. 297-301.

CHAPTER XXI

LOUIS STANLEY JAST (1868-1944)

THE progress of librarianship is frequently hampered by the complacent individual who is perfectly satisfied with the *status quo*, and views with scorn any proposed innovation. Librarianship must advance with the times, or perish from stagnation, and it is due to the compelling characters of a few prominent librarians that we owe the stimulation needed to spur on the laggards. Jast was one such forceful character. He inspired all coming into contact with him, revolutionised the library systems with which he was connected, and by his papers and writings spurred on the efforts of those on the verge of discouragement.

Louis Stanley Jast was born at Halifax in August, 1868, with the family name of de Jastrzebski, his father being a Polish refugee. He was educated at Field's Academy, Halifax, and at King's College, London. At the age of 19 he went to Halifax Public Libraries, eventually becoming librarian of the Akroyd Branch Library. From 1892 to 1898 Jast was Librarian at Peterborough, and in the latter year went to Croydon as Chief Librarian. Here he completely reorganised the system, and favourably influenced several members of the staff, who have since occupied prominent positions in librarianship. He replaced Brown's Adjustable Classification, then in use in the library, and introduced Dewey; but in October, 1915, he left Croydon for Manchester, where he was Deputy (1915-1920), and then Chief Librarian. Once more Jast reorganised the system, and completed his career at Manchester by planning the monumental library with which his name

must always be associated. His services to Manchester were rewarded with an Honorary M.A. from the University.

Jast held several important positions in the Library Association, including that of Honorary Secretary (1905-1915), and was President in 1930. He was a member of many committees, and lectured on classification at the London School of Economics from 1905 to 1908. He was a keen advocate of open-access, card-charging, the card catalogue, subject class lists and of book display, while he invented several useful items of library equipment. Jast assisted Brown in founding *The Library World*, and at Manchester founded the Unnamed Society, a dramatic club which he actively supported. He died on Christmas Day, 1944.

The writings of Louis Stanley Jast are represented by many published verses, including *Shah Jahan*, 1934, a drama in verse; a book on reincarnation entitled *What it all means*, 1941; and he edited the series *Live books resurrected*, of which six volumes appeared. Professional articles and books from his pen are numerous, and he supported many of the Library Association Conferences by contributing papers. The following are among his more prominent publications: *A classification of library economy and office papers*, 1907; (with H. D. Gower and W. W. Topley), *The camera as historian*, [etc.], 1916; *The commercial library. Library Association Record*, 19, 1917, pp. 118-124; *Technical and commercial libraries. L.A.R., N.S.7*, 1929, pp. 98-104; *The child as reader*, 1927; *The planning of a great library*, 1927; *The provision of books for children in elementary schools*, 1928; *Presidential address. L.A.R., N.S.8*, 1930, pp. 241-256; *Libraries and living; essays and addresses of a public librarian*, 1932; *The library and the community*, (1939), in Nelson's Discussion Books Series; *Book selection and the public*, [etc.]. *L.A.R., 4th Ser.*, 1, 1934, pp. 343-347; *The brains. L.A.R., 41*, 1939, pp. 571-576; and, *Libraries and publishers. L.A.R., 41*, 1939, pp. 5-11.

His writings are provocative, sometimes seemingly aggressive, but often with strategic use of humour, and always worthy of careful consideration. As a teacher he was an inspiration to the young librarian, as a speaker he commanded the full attention of his audience, and as a librarian and administrator he was the doyen of the profession.¹

JAST ON THE PERFECT LIBRARIAN ²

This meeting, where librarians and assistants gather on equal terms, is a happy augury of the future co-operation of all sections of the profession. Soon, I hope, we shall cease to divide ourselves into librarians and assistants; we are all librarians, for the only working distinction that I know of between the one and the other, is that the assistant is oftentimes the fellow who does things, and the librarian is the man who says: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant"—or otherwise, as the case may be. The assistants' section of the Library Association will then cease to exist, and its place taken by a juniors' section, for which there may be a practical case, though I'm not very sure about that.

I have chosen for the subject of this address: the perfect librarian. Let me hasten to admit at the outset that the perfect librarian does not exist, never has existed, and assuredly never will exist. But good librarians do, and better librarians may. What is a good librarian? To answer that question we shall have to abstract certain qualities, capacities, etc., and as it is unlikely that all good librarians will possess all these qualities and capacities, or whatever qualities they do possess possess them in the same degree, we must form

¹ For appreciations of L. Stanley Jast by E. A. Savage, W. C. Berwick Sayers, Charles Nowell and others, see *Library Association Record*, 47, 1945, pp. 21-24, 43-45, 84. Also, Louis Stanley Jast. (Edited by W. C. Berwick Sayers.) *Library World*, 47, 1944-5, pp. 107-113, 124-128.

² An address delivered at a meeting of librarians and assistants at Birmingham.

some sort of a general picture, which will be an ideal picture, and such a picture will be in effect our perfect librarian, as we measure perfection in our imperfect world.

We are quite familiar with the process in classification, not so much classification in libraries, which is, or ought to be, a purely practical affair, where logic and precision must give way to convenience, but classification in science. There we have ideal types, and according as the real objects to be classified agree with or depart from the type, we group them with this or another particular type, the type with which they have most in common. There is, by the bye, a quite wrong conception of this process amongst librarians and students, due to the fact that the textbooks on the subject are quite wrong. Dr. Richardson in his little book on classification seems to have misled everybody else. The mistake—and it is without any kind of question a mistake—lies in the assumption that the things we classify are real things. They are not, they are just abstractions of real things. We place a lion under the genus cat, but both the larger group of cats and the smaller group of lions are mentally abstracted bundles of characteristics ; there is no general cat in nature, and the natural lion is an infinitely more complex aggregate than the lion of the zoologist. So that when Richardson says that a natural classification *must* follow the evolutionary order he is confusing nature with something which is a product of men's minds, and not in nature at all. Nothing in nature is classified. Nature doesn't classify. Men do.

But I mustn't wander from my subject before I've properly started. Suffice it that our perfect librarian is an artificial animal, whom none of us will ever come across, as nobody will ever encounter the zoological lion. But it strikes me as amusing that we all dislike perfection as if we'd met it and knew it, which, of course, we haven't outside a few things such as food ; I've certainly experienced a perfect rice pudding ; and

Wordsworth described his wife as "a perfect woman, nobly planned," but then poetry, as Shakspeare observes, is nothing but a kind of splendid lying.

Now obviously the best librarian in one kind of library wouldn't necessarily be the best in another. Contrast the following :

The librarian of the Laurentian library.

The librarian of a research department of a manufacturing firm.

The librarian of a commercial subscription library.

The librarian of Slocum-cum-Podgham. But he'll probably describe himself as chief librarian, and head his letter paper : " Librarian's office."

The City librarian of the great city of X——.

The librarian of the Laurentian library will be a scholar, learned in manuscripts and incunabula. Rare books to him will be like W. S. Gilbert's "dukes at two a penny."

The research librarian will have special knowledge of the technical side of his subject so far as it is represented in literature, and will spend a large part of his time in working up his material to meet the needs of a very limited body of readers, with highly specialized requirements. His main concern will probably not be with books, but magazines, transactions, reports, and clippings, the *dissecta membra* of books, and the flotsam and jetsam of his particular sea of print. Much of his matter, however valuable at the moment, is on its way to the W.P.B., to which sooner or later it will be relegated. He is a snapper-up of carefully considered trifles—the Autolycus of librarians.

The librarian of the subscription library is a tradesman. Nothing derogatory is intended ; the modern world is little else but a colossal trading concern. One might describe him as a book-chef, whose business begins and ends with pleasing the palates of his customers, book gourmets, who want something tasty and easily digested. A good working motto for this kind of librarian is : " Serve 'em quick and serve 'em hot."

The librarian of Slocum-cum-Podgham, or as that really does sound derogatory, than which nothing is further from my intention, the librarian of the small public library, is in many respects our real bed-rock librarian. He buys books, catalogues and issues them, attends to his readers and advises them, guides his committee, does everything, or knows how to do everything. He lives in a small town, has no competitors, or none which count, knows everybody and everybody knows him. It is quite unnecessary for him to follow the example of the librarian of whom it was said by a fellow-townsmen : if you see a man in our town with a top-hat, it's either the town crier or the librarian. No, the librarian's top-hat in his case is his job. If it weren't for the facts that his salary is usually too small and his hours too long, he would be the happiest public librarian of us all.

Then there's the chief librarian of X——. Speaking from my own experience only, mind, I assume he doesn't catalogue nor classify, and if he issued a book there would be consternation in the establishment, because he'd probably fizzle the charge. He's an unknown quantity to the majority of his readers, for the major portion of his time is absorbed by administrative detail, and he might as well be running a big store as a library, except that he isn't worried by a profit and loss account. He has all the worries and few of the pleasures of librarianship.

Here then are some contrasted types. They are all librarians, but beyond the fact that they are concerned with books, the differences are seemingly as numerous as the similarities. But I don't intend that to trouble me, and for this simple reason : the perfect librarian is, in the very nature of the argument, competent to conduct successfully any and every sort of library. I shall therefore ignore these differences in jobs, important as they are.

I must also ignore another difference. In a medieval natural history, I remember that amongst other remarkable characteristics of the crocodile, it is stated : "He

is sometimes male and sometimes female." Well, that is equally true of the perfect librarian. I may in my own secret mind be of opinion that it is long odds that the perfect librarian is a male—I say I may be, I don't say I am—but anyhow that would be mere prejudice, and cannot be seriously maintained, in face of the disconcerting fact that some of the most efficient librarians in this country, on the Continent, and in America are women.

I shall also have to assume the requisite technical equipment. There is, as it were, the common foundation; it is the superstructure of qualities which we erect on this foundation which distinguishes one man from another. Art begins, according to Arthur Symons, where technique leaves off. Librarianship begins where technique leaves off. The perfect workman may perhaps be defined as one who has the utmost skill in the use of his tools; but the craftsman only starts at this point, he must have in addition imagination, skill in design, and taste. There are plenty of librarians who are only workmen; they may be good workmen, but they are not craftsmen, they are not leaders. They will never be librarians in the sense in which we are now employing the term. There are, however, certain qualities required in the good technical librarian, which are important elements in the make-up of the perfect librarian, and which it will be convenient to deal with in relation to technique, which offers concrete examples of their application. I refer especially to two of the fundamental processes, cataloguing and classifying.

I asked a member of my staff, who is in charge of the central cataloguing at Manchester, to write down for me the qualities he considered necessary for a good cataloguer. And, by the bye, there are very few of him. He gave me a list of twenty-five qualities, and then requested the return of the list, because he'd thought of some more! I'm afraid that on that scale the analysis of the perfect librarian would become absolutely terrifying. But No. 9 on his list is "Ability to

concentrate on essentials, and avoid side-tracking." That is very much to the point, and I will consider it further in a moment. Another of his qualities—an unexpected one in a cataloguer—is courage. I like the example he gives, which is "Not shirking difficult books." I also commend his No. 19, "Self-control," which is exercised in not spending too much time reading books in which one is specially interested. This is not a personal confession of my own weaknesses, but if it were, I should have to plead guilty to that. I have endeavoured, however, to offset it in the way one usually does counter one's own weaknesses, viz., by being very severe on any member of the staff who displays the same fault. The criticism that I would offer on these and similar qualities in the list is that they belong to the basic virtues, and have no more specific relation to the perfect cataloguer than to, say, the perfect tram-conductor or the perfect barmaid. In fact I should say less. The barmaid who didn't concentrate when fifty people are clamouring for drinks during the three minutes' stop of a train in a railway refreshment room, and who served a ginger-beer to the man who ordered a whisky, would be irretrievably lost. As for self-control, without *that* a barmaid would not only be lost, but damned.

I once heard a distinguished librarian discourse on the characteristics of a good cataloguer, and I listened in vain for what is to my mind the one supreme and pivotal quality of the cataloguer, without which everything else is naught. And that is *accuracy*. Not ordinary accuracy, but meticulous accuracy. To put a semicolon when the code requires a colon; to add extraneous marks to a class symbol; to change or misspell a word in a title; to do anything whatever except exactly what the code permits: this in a cataloguer is arson, high treason, burglary—everything that is illegal and wicked.

Yet accuracy is the rarest of virtues. I doubt if anybody is born accurate, as Pooh-Bah was born.

sneering. It is a virtue which has to be acquired, and comes from rigorous self-discipline. I think it is a compound quality, not an elementary one, and is partly mental and partly ethical. The mental part of it is the faculty of attention, itself an aspect of concentration, and the ethical part, a high sense of duty, duty to your work. Accuracy is needed in all library work, and people who are constitutionally, or from laziness, inaccurate, should try politics or journalism, where accuracy doesn't matter. It is part of the equipment of a tidy mind, and our perfect librarian must be as tidy in his mind as a Dutchman in his house and in his town. An inaccurate scholar is a contradiction in terms ; an inaccurate librarian is a bad librarian.

Next to accuracy I am inclined to put that capacity to seize on essentials, already mentioned. It is a capacity perhaps more vital to the classifier than to the cataloguer. Subjects, and consequently books, tend to overlap to such an extent to-day, that the man who can't grasp the essential nature, or discover, so to speak, the spinal column of a book, on which all the bones hang, is hopeless as a classifier.

Another thing that the classifier can't get along without is general information. And here, I think, it will be well to drop associating characteristics with technical processes of any kind, and think in terms of the complete librarian, because there is no job that I know of where general knowledge is so desirable as that of the librarian. Every scrap of information he possesses he is sure to be able to find a use for some time or other. You can be a very good musician without either character or knowledge. You can be a quite good lawyer, and know little or nothing outside your avocation. But a really ignorant librarian is a catastrophe. And it is not altogether, or even chiefly, having a collection of odds and ends of facts that is wanted—valuable as that is—but rather that alert intelligence, based on a true culture, which is able to get quickly on speaking terms with any facts or ideas that

present themselves for consideration. We speak of a man of the world, meaning a man who is easily at home in any society in which he finds himself. The librarian must be equally at home in the world of ideas.

This sort of *nous* is the most important to the librarian *qua* librarian of any of the qualities which are his sign manual, and it is precisely the lack of it that constitutes the most serious deficiency of the rank and file of library staffs. The things that so many of them don't know, don't want to know, maybe aren't capable of knowing, are staggering. I suppose that modern mechanized and unduly stressed vocational education is responsible, together with the revolt against the old-fashioned discipline. I speak, of course, from my own experience, and my opinion has not been hastily formed.

Reverting to the quest and vision for essentials, this is a great need for the librarian as an administrator. Not necessarily to the *successful* administrator, as success in administration is commonly understood and measured, but to the really good one. Otherwise you will have an administrator who is nothing else, and the country abounds with administrators of this type. They never get outside their machinery. Machinery is regarded as an end in itself, and not a means. The good librarian must look beyond his machinery, and ask himself what it is his machinery is doing. If the machine is turning out sausages, are they the right kind of sausage?

In addition to his alert intelligence the librarian—I do not say here the perfect librarian, because the characteristic I am now going to mention should mark all librarians—must have the catholic mind. “My wife is a Presbyterian, but I am an early riser,” said Artemus Ward. The librarian in his private capacity may be either, but officially he must be both, nay even an anti-Presbyterian and an anti-early riser as well. Most librarians are; the very nature of their work tends to a wide outlook. Like the aviator, his own little backyard disappears as he surveys the stretching expanse of literary land and sea.

Truly this business of being a librarian worthy of the calling is not an easy one. For the librarian must be born *and* made. He must start with the requisite intellectual, psychological and spiritual make-up, and he must sedulously train himself—I don't mean technically, for that is understood, and if he has the right kind of mind, it is not difficult. By "right kind of mind" I imply the cataloguing mind, the classifying mind, etc. ; some people haven't got this mind, and no amount of training in that case will turn them into first-class cataloguers or classifiers. But when I speak of training I refer to the larger and deeper things which have been mentioned, and others, which to deal with in this address would lengthen it inordinately. The capacity, for example, to "get on" with people of various natures and temperaments, to understand their point of view, however strange or alien to our own. I should like to point to a man like Edward Edwards, and say to you, *there* was the perfect librarian. But Edwards failed in cultivating the right relations with his committee, and the tragedy of his career was the consequence of that failure. He was a highly competent librarian, but not a highly competent public official, and the perfect librarian must be both, whether he serves in the latter rôle or no. Edwards did not understand his committee, and his committee did not understand him. But after all it wasn't the primary business of his committee to understand him ; it *was* his business to understand them. So, as I said in the beginning, we must leave the perfect librarian in the region of ideals, along with the ideal woman and the ideal plumber.

But fortunately, there is no one of us who cannot rise to that view of our profession which was expressed by Dr. Carnegie, in his address to the Library Association, at the meeting in Glasgow in 1907 : "Consecrate yourselves to your profession, for it is noble." Great words, that might well be inscribed in the council chamber of the new headquarters of the Association.

There are some professions and occupations which men have ever agreed are in a special sense "noble." Such among the professions are those of the priest and the physician. And if we ask whether there is any reasonable ground why the occupation of the doctor should be esteemed nobler than that of, let us say, the bank manager, the answer must be, I think, that there is a reason behind the popular idea on this matter, which I take to be this. The bank manager works for his living, the efficient physician, and still more the efficient priest, work, of course, for their living also, but in addition they work for the work's sake, and that work itself is noble, for it cannot be done rightly without some sacrifice of self. It is true that there are few occupations which cannot be ennobled by the manner in which they are performed, but in the cases of the priest and the physician the work itself is noble even though it be performed ignobly for the mere sake of gain. No priest can lend nobility and dignity to his calling, it is his calling which lends dignity to him and provides him with the opportunity for service. Happy are those who, in doing the necessary daily task which supports them, can find therein ample scope for that unselfish service to the community which every man who has risen beyond the limitations of the personal self and of the family, desires in the measure of his time and capacity and strength to perform. Was Dr. Carnegie then claiming too much to claim that the profession of librarian is worthy to stand alongside those of the priest and of the physician? I think not. The association of the librarian with the physician is familiar to us from the oft-quoted inscription over the library at Alexandria, which I will not quote here. And I heard on one occasion Mr. H. G. Wells compare the position of the librarian of the future to the parish priest in the old days; what the parish priest was to his community, that the librarian will be to his, the successor of the priest of olden time. But this can only be partly true. In so far as the priest was the intellectual.

purveyor of his flock, *that* the librarian should endeavour to become, but the true sphere of the priest is, of course, that of the spiritual adviser, wherein the librarian may not enter. There are some people who look to see the priest disappear; not long ago a clergyman himself said to me: "I look forward to the time when the only priest will be the librarian." That is not my view. To the priest the spiritual, to the doctor the physical, and to the librarian the intellectual ministry of man. It is a splendid part for us to play. That we are almost ludicrously incapable of playing the part as yet let it be granted. The costume

"Hangs loose about *us* like a giant's robe
Upon a dwarfish thief"

but the dwarf will grow. There is a fine passage in the work of a curious and fantastic French writer which says that a man should bear himself *as if he were a dispossessed king who shall one day reascend his throne*. Let us remember that in the days gone by the librarian was a priest as well as a physician. And why therefore in the future should he not make good his claim to stand once more beside the physicians of the soul and of the body—one who has become three—but whose work dovetails together and is equally necessary for the building up of the perfect man? Why not?

Extract from Jast, L. S., *Libraries and living: essays and addresses of a public librarian*, 1932, pp. 83-93.¹

¹ I am indebted to Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers for drawing my attention to this typical address, which forms a fitting conclusion to this series of extracts from the writings of the great librarians of the past. [J. L. T.]

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